

Hafa Adai!

DPL gets 4 applications for farm plots program so far. **PAGE 2**
IT&E hosts donation drive for PH typhoon victims. **PAGE 7**

75¢

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IN THE LAWSUIT FILED BY SEVEN WORKERS

Plaintiffs want IPI CEO jailed

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

In the lawsuit filed by seven construction workers, the plaintiffs, through Aaron Halegua, have asked the court to order Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to explain why its chief executive officer, Don-



Browne

ald Browne, should not be jailed for failing to satisfy the judgment against the company.

See PLAINTIFFS on Page 4

The goal: 30 local marine biologists by 2030

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A 12-week, no-cost, science program called Project Healthy Oceans and People

Empowerment that is focused on sixth graders, aims to "produce" the first batch of local marine biologist in the CNMI. Friends of the Marianas See MARINE on Page 4

Labor clarifies number of PUA claimants

» DOL continues to assist claimants with errors in order to expedite payment

The CNMI Department of Labor issued clarification yesterday about the number of legitimate Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation claimants in

See LABOR on Page 4

'Marijuana law has some problematic provisions'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The fledgling marijuana industry in the CNMI may be on an upward trajectory but it not without its challenges, even for something as simple as the importation of marijuana seeds.

Speaking before a hearing by the Senate Committee on See MARIJUANA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 8pm, Nov. 18, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive			6,346
Recovered			4,341
Active			1,905
Deaths			100
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			76,502

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	103	0	103
Traced via Travel Screening	77	0	77
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			22,633*
Days since last community transmission			95

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The name of the Jade Flower Shop and Corona Shop near William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa takes on a new meaning due to the current COVID-19 pandemic engulfing not only the CNMI but the whole world. Fortunately, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is expected to receive the first batch of coronavirus vaccine next week and the initial 2,000 doses will immediately be administered to the islands' health care workers and front-liners.

MARK RABAGO

INSIDE

LOCAL

Mikaela San Nicolas and Erika Pascual are named as this year's winners of the Pacifica Art Contest.

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BUSINESS

Savory Cuisine at the Kada Dia in Chalan Kanoa offers Filipino favorites.

PAGE 12

ENVIRONMENT

Docomo Pacific partners with Aura Air to help improve indoor air quality.

» PAGE X



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Local

DPL gets 4 applications for farm plots program so far

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has received four applications so far under its new program that makes available over 200 farm plots to private individuals for subsistence farming to increase the island's food sustainability dur-

ing this COVID-19 pandemic situation.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for an update about the farm plots program, Deveney Dela Cruz, special assistant to the DPL secretary, said yesterday that



Dela Cruz

applications are still being processed.

"No grants or denials yet," Dela Cruz said.

The program will award over 200 farm plots, consisting of 1,000 square meters each, to private individuals for "subsistence farming."

tence farming."

Dela Cruz said that, according to their Real Estate Division, the fee for each 1,000 square meters farm plot is \$250 annually.

"This is open to all CNMI citizens 18 and above," Dela Cruz said.

DPL announced the new program last Oct. 19.

DPL Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo stated that their goal is to maximize the use of public lands to benefit the community. Concepcion-Teregeyo underscored the importance during this

time of COVID-19 to increase food sustainability on the island and reduce reliance on imported food.

DPL said these subsistence farm plots are temporary and renewable every year.

DPL said they saw the community's response as a result of the global pandemic when backyard gardening became a popular pastime.

Pandemic won't stop Christmas

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

First lady Diann Torres will be joined by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' wife, Wella Palacios, to welcome the holiday season with the lighting of "A Christmas Village on the Hill" at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill on Nov. 29 at 6:30pm, to signal the start of the holiday season in the CNMI.

According to a flier from the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, they will be offering free popcorn and a meet-and-greet with Santa Claus. Due to social distancing protocols, participants will go through a drive-thru on Building Block 1200-1300 to see the rest of the village "come to life."

A map of the Christmas Village on Capital Hill will be made available on the LDTF social media page on Facebook soon.

As of Nov. 18, there are a total of 47 agencies that will participate in this event.

This will be a first such program on Capital Hill. During previous holidays, the event that kicks off the holidays in the Marianas was held at the grounds of the Pedro P. Tenoerio Multi-Purpose Center with the lighting of a giant Christmas tree and the opening of a Christmas Village.

Also, the Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College and NMC is proud to spearhead and partner with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the

U.S. Marine Corp for the fourth annual Toys for Tots Campaign.

According to the ASNMC flier, the mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots Program is to collect new and unwrapped presents during the months of November and December to distribute the toys as Christmas gifts to children in the community.

For those who want to donate, ASNMC is accepting new and unwrapped toys, art supplies, books, and anything else suitable for ages zero to 17 years old. These donations can be dropped off at donation boxes located on the NMC campus at Building P (president's office) and Building V (faculty office). They are open from Monday to Thursday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

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Intelisecure: Helping diversify the CNMI economy

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Intelisecure, a Colorado-based company and a provider of data security services that opened shop on Saipan last January, is creating job opportunities for residents as part of its overall goal to help diversify the CNMI's tourism-centric economic base.

"We have been talking about diversification for many years now even before the pandemic came about. The CNMI community relied on the casino for a number of years. ...We knew clearly that there will be a lot of challenges to try and sustain the CNMI economy," said Franklin Arriola of ARI and founder of Pacific Region Initiative Market Opportunities in the Marianas at the Docomo Pacific webinar titled "Diversify Now: Growing Our Economy" that was held yesterday.

"The leadership of ARI thought that we want to develop this concept...talk to decision-makers from U.S.-based cybersecurity data companies, get their interest to relocate their business in the CNMI. ...All of us in ARI and the executive team have experience in the artificial intelligence business with special interest in telecommunications and information technology," he added.

According to Arriola, the Marianas is called the American Asia where U.S.-based companies can set up shop in the Asia-Pacific region and still be under the jurisdiction of U.S. laws. "There is available labor or workforce, prevailing wages are much lower, and we follow the 24/7 sun model when they close office in the East Coast, we continue the business as our day has just begun...it all comes together here," he said.

"Intelisecure was able to set up operations in the CNMI to compliment other Intelisecure operating centers in London and Colorado. ...They opened shop in January and started with five or six employees who were trained locally in the CNMI under the Latte Training Academy," he added.

In an earlier interview with Intelisecure vice president Graham Logsdon, he said the office on Saipan will work in conjunction with their ana-

lysts in London and Denver.

Arriola said that Docomo Pacific's infrastructure helped Intelisecure set up shop on island. "Being one of

our partners, Docomo Pacific helped set up Intelisecure's program on Saipan, putting in fibers in the building to accommodate infra-

structure and 5G universe that will definitely sustain whatever Guam and the CNMI is going to put together as we move forward

into diversification."

"To achieve economic diversification, some places let the government take charge. ...In others, the private sec-

tor. It really depends on what country you live in but, in this case, the CNMI government gave us its full support," he added.





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MARIJUANA

From Page 1

Cannabis and Gaming Tuesday, former House speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, who is the special adviser for cannabis under the Office of the Governor, disclosed the many challenges facing the CNMI Cannabis Commission and the industry.

“The success of this industry for the commercial, recreational sale of cannabis would be largely dependent on other factors that need to be resolved,” he said. “One major one is the importation of seeds.”

Deleon Guerrero said there are seed strains here but, to be truly successful, there has to be adequate, sufficient, diverse supply of different strains, not only for recreational but

also for medicinal use.

“We do not control what comes across the border as far as this commission is concerned. That’s the jurisdiction of [the Division of] Customs but they are also bound by the law,” he said, adding that these issues will eventually have to be reckoned with at some point.

Public Law 20-66, the “Taulam-waar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act

of 2018,” authorized personal, medicinal, and commercial use of cannabis or marijuana in the CNMI.

Deleon Guerrero said that, because this cannabis industry is new, they have challenges just to try to collaborate and work with other regulatory agencies. For instance, they tried to work with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality on regulations relating to pesticides for cannabis, but he said BECQ was not even equipped to answer their questions.

Deleon Guerrero said they have been consulting too with Division of Public Health for the medicinal marijuana component.

“And that’s partly why our regulations are not in place yet,” he said, adding that Public Health also needs to come on board to give them guidance on things like approved medical conditions or other conditions that warrant medicinal marijuana.

“They’re not even there yet either,” he said.

Deleon Guerrero said they’ve been meeting with the Division of Customs and that one questions they’ve

been trying to figure out is the tax issue. He said they have an excise tax for marijuana producers and a Business Gross Revenue surtax on the retail side.

However, according to the Division of Revenue and Taxation, the excise tax is going to be challenging as Customs is the one that assesses such tax. “So these are the questions that need to be answered and they more than likely would need some legislative amendments,” he said.

Deleon Guerrero said they have also been meeting with federal agencies like the Drug Enforcement Administration, which is concerned about this cannabis industry. He said DEA wants them to provide things like a list of marijuana homegrown applicants, but they are bound by the cannabis law not to disclose. He said the DEA also has a federal law to enforce.

“And we have a law to abide by. And where that crosses, there may be issues,” the former speaker said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

LABOR

From Page 1

the CNMI.

As of Nov. 14, 2020, CNMI DOL has received 36,602 claims through the HireMarianas.com portal, but 17,931 of these claims are from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the CNMI PUA program.

The official number of PUA claims in the CNMI is 18,671. Of that number, 11,785 (or 63% of all claims) have been adjudicated, meaning claimants have received an approval or denial notification in line with federal program requirements.

As of Nov. 18, 2020, CNMI DOL has paid over \$108.4 million in PUA and FPUC benefits. Since June, more than \$72 million in PUA funds and more than \$86 million in FPUC funds have been obligated for current, ongoing, and future payments after adjudication.

Payments to “approved claims with zero errors” are ongoing as an additional \$25.9 million in PUA benefits will be paid out through the Thanksgiving week. Claimants with direct deposits will see funds as early

as next week, while paper checks take additional days for processing.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente stated that claims with zero errors have already been paid, with the exception of recently approved claims that will see payouts in subsequent batches.

“Every eligible CNMI claim with zero errors have been paid or will be paid as soon as possible through this next batch. It is in all of our best interest as a community to help eligible PUA claimants support their families, find gainful employment, and ultimately overcome this pandemic. The CNMI DOL has applied for additional federal grants amounting to \$12 million through USDOL to expand employment opportunities beyond PUA and FPUC as well. We are being proactive to address unemployment caused by the global pandemic,” said Benavente.

“The work has not stopped, and while PUA continues to be a complex program to administer across all states and territories, the CNMI DOL continues to manage this program in line with federal statutes and USDOL regulations. There is a strict process outlined by our federal partners in order to ensure accountability of funds

and to prevent fraud. We want to see all eligible PUA claims receive their benefits—that has been the goal from the start, and we will continue to work to get all eligible CNMI claimants their benefits,” she added.

DOL assists claims with errors

CNMI DOL states that a majority of claims have been denied due to various errors.

Common errors with PUA claims that have delayed disbursement or led to denials include:

A. Lack of eligibility requirements

■ CWs and non-qualified aliens are unfortunately not eligible for PUA, despite the request of the CNMI government

B. Claimants have not demonstrated that their unemployment was a result of the pandemic

■ These claims lack employer verification and other supporting documents

■ If an employer notifies CNMI DOL that their employee “refuses to work,” the claimant is ineligible to receive PUA benefits

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PLAINTIFFS

From Page 1

According to Halegua, the U.S. District Court for the NMI should treat IPI’s failure to comply with court orders as contempt of court and, given that previous penalties against IPI have been ineffective, should impose stronger sanctions against IPI, like putting its CEO in jail.

Halegua argued that Browne, specifically, should be held in contempt because he knew about the order[s], he controls IPI, and he failed to ensure IPI’s compliance.

“In the present case, there is no dispute that Browne was aware of the fee award because he submitted the sole declaration in support of IPI’s motion for an extension of time to pay the sanction [on Sept. 18]. Browne also exercises control over IPI and has the authority to direct that IPI pay. Or to direct the sale of certain assets to make [the] payment,” he said.

Halegua referenced Browne’s testimony before the Gaming Committee of the House of Representatives where he stated that he “oversees the entire operation,” “assists in capital funding,” and that he’s “very familiar with the financial position of IPI and the availability of funds.”

“Because Browne knew about the order[s] and deadline for payment, [and as] he has been the top executive of IPI since July 2020, and he did not act to ensure the compliance with the order[s], the court should hold him in

contempt,” he said.

Helegua said given the ineffectiveness of the sanctions imposed on IPI to date, it is necessary to impose sanctions on individuals who “failed to take appropriate action within their power.”

“The court should hold IPI in contempt and impose sanctions because it disobeyed a specific and definite court order by failure to take all reasonable steps within the party’s power to comply,” Halegua said.

Aside from noncompliance, IPI and its executives have also grown “comfortable” in ignoring the court’s orders, Halegua said.

On top of the incarceration of its CEO, other sanctions that Halegua suggested is for IPI to be held in contempt of court, plus additional contempt sanctions be imposed if IPI fails to comply, again, if the court issues an order to show cause.

In all, Halegua asked the court to issue an order to show cause—ask IPI for an explanation—stating why an order should not be entered that holds IPI and its CEO in contempt for failing to comply with the order[s]; direct marshals to hold Browne in custody; require that IPI provide plaintiffs with information related to its assets and efforts to liquidate them, command IPI to file with the court a detailed plan for liquidating its gaming equipment, vehicles, or other sufficient assets to pay the fee award; notify IPI personnel that future noncompliance will result in holding the responsible individuals in contempt and the imposition of

sanctions, including fines and incarceration; and award the plaintiffs attorney’s fees.

Back in December 2019, the court granted the plaintiffs’ first motion to compel and ordered IPI to pay attorney’s fees and costs that totaled \$29,459.

Because IPI did not comply, the court granted a motion for sanctions against IPI on April 16, held IPI in contempt, made a second award of attorneys’ fees, and ordered that continued noncompliance would result in a \$2,000 daily fine.

IPI did not comply with that order so the sanctions were imposed and later entered a default judgment against IPI. The court also made a third award of attorneys’ fees. To date, the daily \$2,000 sanction continues to accrue.

As of Aug. 25, IPI was ordered to pay \$93,834.25 in attorneys’ fees by Sept. 24.

On Sept. 18, IPI filed an extension to pay, which the court granted. The court then ordered IPI to pay off the full amount by Oct. 24, or interim payments as soon as funding was available. If funding was not available, the court ordered IPI to liquidate assets to satisfy the judgement.

Halegua said IPI did not make any payments toward the judgment and did not file any notice or explanation with the court.

On Oct. 27, the plaintiffs filed a notice of noncompliance and to date, Helgua said IPI has yet to file any response or explanation.

MARINE

From Page 1

Trench executive director Laurie Peterka said that through Project HOPE, they hope to see 30 local marine biologists by 2030. These will include those fresh out of college or have graduate degrees in marine science.

The project was launched earlier this month and is designed to use experiential learning to help CNMI students understand experimental results, inferences, models, and data. Middle school students have been gathering at Guma Sakman in Susupe on Austerity Mondays for this purpose.

Peterka believes that students still need to have “tactile learning”—or hands-on learning—because learning from a video or a book is not enough. The goal is to show students what they’re learning is “real in their everyday life.”

Since they are focused on sixth-graders, Peterka wants Project HOPE to inspire students that there is something “bigger than themselves.” Peterka said the program is anticipated to occur indefinitely, 12 weeks every semester, with the next batch of students projected to be enrolled by February 2021.

Before launching and writing the grant for Project HOPE, the project’s coordinators first did their research—collecting standardized test scores of sixth grade students over the course of three years. They then presented the argument that they could improve those test scores through Project HOPE, targeting 135 sixth graders.

Peterka said Project HOPE was brought into fruition after years of planning and coordination, which included applying for federal grants and reaching out to the community to learn what issues are most important to the public.

If the pilot program succeeds, more will follow until ultimately, they will be held every year and hopefully inspire more students to become marine scientists, she added.

Peterka said they want to see a population that finds interest and understands the correlation between modern and traditional science.

When asked how the community can help with Project HOPE, Peterka said, “Send us your sixth graders.”

The best thing that can happen, she said, is that the community and parents will encourage their sixth grade students in public schools to join the program and for the students to get the support of their science teachers and principals.

Project HOPE is currently offered only to public school students because that is how its federal grant was written. However, this may be adjusted in the future in order to include private school students, depending on what the spring enrollment will look like, she said.

She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the project launch date, which was originally set for February 2020. Enrollment was low due to the global health crisis, but it picked up as COVID-19 restrictions gradually loosened. But because it was unable to reach its initial target audience before the start of the new school year, the project currently includes seventh graders.

College students, community development partners, and ocean elders are also involved in the project, which combines traditional knowledge about the environment with current Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM, principles. College students are interviewed and trained before joining the team that organizes the learning sessions of the project.

Outreach specialists from community development partners such as the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality bring a twist to the traditional classroom setting by providing more hands-on activities while complying with COVID-19 social distancing directives. Elders such as master navigator Antonio “Tony” Pailug, the son of the great Mau Pailug, share their traditional knowledge of the sea.



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San Nicolas, Pascual top Pacifica art contest

Mikaela San Nicolas and Erika Pascual were named yesterday as this year's winners of the Pacifica Art Contest, which is hosted by Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc.

Pascual secured the top spot in Category 1 (age division 6-11 years old), while San Nicolas won first place in Category 2 (age division 12-17 years old).

Pacifica's approach to this year's contest was different given the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of holding a full-fledged con-

test, which normally involved the active involvement of students, school administrators, teachers and contest coordinators, the company decided to revisit top entries dating back to 2014.

With over 1,500 entries to date since the establishment of Pacifica Art Contest, the company dedicated this year to all artists who took part in previous years' annual contests by giving them another chance at winning.

A former student of Kagman High School, Mikaela

San Nicolas was only 16 years old when she submitted the winning art piece in 2014. Pascual, who was then a student of Hopwood Jr High School, was only 11 years old when she submitted her winning art piece back in 2017.

There were two rounds of judging this year to determine the final outcomes. A total of 60 pieces went through the first round. The second round of judging came down to the Top 20, which were pieces submitted by Seo Hee, Lee; Seon I Park; Noah Lee; Vic-

tor Castro; Seiyul Hong; Jing Lin; Seok Hun Lee; Kathy He; Ji Hye Jeon; Adrien Ocampo; Mar Joelviloria; Nakia Reyes; Maureen Doculan; Maryn Trianni; Serin Chung; Hee Jeong Kim; Cerjean Mangubat; Pascual; Marjorie Agana; and San Nicolas.

This year's judging panel included J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc. corporate projects manager So-mia Quan, *Marianas Variety* sports reporter James Sablan, and our 2019 Miss NMI Earth Leisha Deleon Guerrero.

"It was nice to see artwork from students of different ages and their unique approach on the themes," said Sablan. "You could tell how many different styles were used, from colored pencils to crayons and paint. You could see the fun they had creating these masterpieces."

"It was an honor to judge the many wonderful artwork submissions. The talent we have in the CNMI is so inspiring for the future. I think using submissions from the previous years was a great idea as it shows how businesses and people in our island community have had to adjust and adapt to keep traditions alive in the ever changing environment of a global pandemic," said Quan.

On Deleon Guerrero's part, she said that being a part of the art contest "was absolutely an honor and a blessing. While examining each art piece

created with such vibrancy, meaning, technique, and hard work, I realized how incredibly gifted our islands are with such young passionate artists. Despite our current situation, we were able to celebrate the talent and creativity within the Marianas. I believe that going forth with this year's art contest was made significant because it allowed us to look past the negative aspects of this global pandemic and recognize these young artists within our community. This event is not only a contest but highlights our unity in such circumstances, serving as a reminder about the true meaning of Christmas. I hope that we continue to lift and support one another, especially in these challenging times, and that everyone sees the beauty in each masterpiece created by these artists as I did."

The judging was executed electronically to ensure everyone safely distanced and avoided unnecessary commute, although all pieces will be made available at Pacifica's office in Susupe for personal viewing throughout the holiday season.

"The challenges we, as a community, continue to face during this pandemic has been the driving force behind this year's art contest," said Pacifica president Shirley Sablan. "There is no better time than now to further encourage col-

laboration, boost strength and ignite hope. The art pieces that came out of our art contest was intended for this very purpose. It was designed to help spark that glimmer of hope and to also remind us to 'rest assured' as everything ultimately works out in our favor, if given the chance."

Sablan thanked all artists, school administrators and teachers, judges, and contest coordinators for taking part in what she considers years of extremely successful contest events.

Art pieces were judged based on creativity and originality, quality of art piece, clarity of theme, and presentation.


This year's Top 20 pieces can be accessed electronically on www.pacificains.com/art-contest and all major company social media pages.

To add to the excitement, and for the first time ever, top placing artists from this year's contest will be featured on Pacifica Reacts, a reaction video produced by Julia Espino and Riane Capalad. Details about this video can be found on Pacifica's social media pages and the full video on youtube.com/pacificainsurance.


For more information about Pacifica Art Contest, email Pacifica Insurance at piui@pacificains.com or visit their office in Susupe, Saipan during normal business hours Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm. (PR)



The piece entered in 2017 by Erika Pascual of Hopwood Junior High School won Category 1 of the 2020 Pacifica Art Contest. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 006

Opening Date: November 13, 2020 • Closing Date: November 27, 2020

<p>POSITION TITLE:</p> <p>DEPARTMENT:</p> <p>LOCATION:</p> <p>ANNUAL SALARY:</p> <p>CONTRACT:</p> <p>POSITION(S):</p>	<p>HR Generalist/Training Coordinator</p> <p>COA/Human Resources</p> <p>Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA</p> <p>\$37,756.00 - \$50,970.00 per annum, Exempt</p> <p>2 Year Contract</p> <p>One (1)</p>
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The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assess training needs through surveys, interviews with employees, focus groups, or consultation with managers, instructors, or customer representatives.
- Research curriculum actively and remain up-to-date on developments within the industry and competitors.
- Design, plan, organize, or direct orientation and training programs for employees or customers.
- Offer specific training programs to help workers maintain or improve job skills.
- Present information using a variety of instructional techniques or formats, such as role playing, simulations, team exercises, group discussions, videos, or lectures.
- Obtain, organize, or develop training procedure Manuals, guides, or course materials, such as handouts or visual materials.
- Works in coordination with the Grants Administrator in locating and procuring grant funding for employee development.
- Reviews, tracks and/or performs audits of program data, financial records, activity records, testing data, and/or other types of functional documentation; identifies issues; prepares summaries and notifies appropriate resources of results; adheres to and provides required regulatory reporting and documentation.
- Receives, reviews and verifies forms and documents; enters, updates and maintains information systems.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor's degree in Business, Public Relations, Human Resources or directly related field and 4 years of general professional human resource-related experience in Employee Development and Trainings; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Education and training; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Instruction; Learning strategies; Active Learning; Monitoring; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

■ **Licensing:**

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

■ **Physical Demands:**

- Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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The piece entered in 2014 by Mikaela San Nicolas of Kagman High School won Category 2 of the 2020 Pacifica Art Contest. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Muslim community to hold beach cleanup

Members of the Muslim community on Saipan will conduct four hours of beach cleanup on Nov. 20, 2020, Friday. The event will start at 7am. One group will gather at the back of the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan and the other group will gather at the back of Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio. Both groups will be picking up trash going toward Kilili Beach Park in San Jose. Other members of the public are invited to join this activity in any of the areas at their convenience. Interest-

ed members are requested to bring their own face masks. An ad hoc committee will provide hand gloves and trash bags, as well as food and drinks. (PR)

Seatbelt, car seat checkpoints on Friday

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting occupant protection/child restraint checkpoints on Friday, Nov. 27, 2020. The first checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Martinez in Koblerville to Chalan Monsignor Martinez in Dandan from 6pm to 8pm.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in San Jose to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in San Vicente, from 9pm to 11pm.

The purpose of these checkpoints is to promote public safety while increasing the awareness of the dangers of not using a vehicle's occupant protection system as well as child restraints systems while driving on the island's roads. Locations of these checkpoints were pre-determined based on the number of auto accidents, occupant protection, and child restraint system violations in these areas. (PR)

IT&E hosts donation drive for PH typhoon victims

To help those in the Philippines devastated by typhoons Rolly and Ulysses, IT&E CNMI is hosting a

text-to-donate campaign from Nov. 18 to 26, 2020. All funds raised will support relief efforts spearheaded

by the Office of Philippine honorary consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago and the United Filipino Organization.

According to news reports, Super Typhoon Rolly (also known as Typhoon Goni) was the strongest typhoon of

2020 when it hit the Philippines on Oct. 31, affecting an estimated 1.6 million people. Just 11 days later, Typhoon Ulysses (also known as Typhoon Vamco) battered the same and other areas, causing extreme flooding that destroyed homes and displaced hundreds of thousands.

"We understand the plight of the Filipinos and are committed to helping those in need. Every dollar raised for relief efforts by the Office of Philippine Honorary Consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago and the United Filipino Organization will go a long way to help uplift those that are struggling to recover from these disasters,"

said Rose Soledad, general manager of IT&E.

IT&E postpaid and prepaid subscribers can help those in need by donating in increments of \$1, \$3, and \$5 by texting their donation to 4357 (HELP).

To donate, subscribers can text:

- GIVE1 for \$1
- GIVE3 for \$3
- GIVE5 for \$5

More information about the text-to-donate campaign can be found at ite.net.

IT&E unites with organizations like Arago's office and UFO the to build a strong community dedicated to alleviating hardships and helping all people thrive. (PR)

Community organizations donate to PH

In response to the devastating destruction that Typhoon Ulysses caused in the Cagayan province of the Philippines, the United Filipino Organization has arranged donations to be sent in order to provide some relief to the victims.

According to UFO president Marcelo V. Masilungan, the organization is only looking to receive cash or check donations. This will be easier for the organization because they will be able to send it to a representative in the Philippines who will be able to buy and then distribute the relief goods to all those who are affected.

"In this regard, we are humbly seeking your generosity to help our *kabayans* [compatriots] in this time of need," said Masilungan.

For check donations, make the check payable to the United Filipino Organization. For those who wish to get their donations picked up at their time

and place at their convenience, they can contact UFO secretary Birhen Martinez at 483-0915 or Masilungan at 483-9440.

Typhoon Ulysses caused the Cagayan province to be submerged in water after the release of water from the Magat Dam due to torrential rain, which brought massive flooding to 22 of the 28 towns in Cagayan. Thousands of families are left with no shelter, food, and clothing, and most of the areas in the province are still unreachable.

In a separate event, the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club donated 65 reams of bond paper to the Philippine Department of Education Integrated School in Laguna to three schools—Paciano Rizal Elementary School, Los Banos Central Elementary School, and Los Banos Integrated School—last Oct. 1.

Another donation of 100 reams of bond paper and eight bottles of ink were donated to the

Giporlos Central School in Giporlos, Eastern Samar last Oct. 14. This donation helped several teachers prepare the modules that they've distributing to students for blended-learning, which is a combination of remote learning and face-to-face instruction.

According to Annamae Adaza, the SFALC will be donating more supplies to those who were affected by

Typhoon Ulysses.

Club president Eden Mercado stated that she is grateful to their members who stepped up in extending help to those who need it. "Thank you to Anna Mercado, Jaime del Peralta, Mar Masilungan and Malou Masilungan for their generosity," she said.

If you are interested in joining the club, call Mercado at 788-2416 or club secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021. (Justine Nauta)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TMS sets virtual PTSA meeting

Tanapag Middle School wishes all parents/guardians a Happy National Parental Involvement Day today, Nov. 19. TMS also invites all Tataga parents and guardians to this school year's first virtual Parents Teachers Students Association Meeting today, from 5pm to 6pm. See student emails for the meeting link, flyers, and more information. (PR)

Upcoming SHEFA deadlines

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is reminding the public of its upcoming deadlines:

■ Deadline for spring 2021 application only is Dec. 1, 2020.

■ Deadline for spring 2021 supporting documents is Feb. 28, 2021. (Make sure all documents are complete before submission). (PR)

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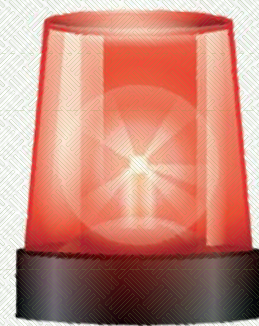
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How to avoid PHISHING



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What are some red flags I can use to identify a phishing attempt?

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- THERE ARE MISSPELLINGS.
- YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED.

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DO NOT ENTER ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION.

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DELETE THE MESSAGE.

For more information on how to stay safe from phishing, visit our Fraud Information Center at



www.bankofguam.com.



Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Thanksgiving is not canceled. Common sense isn't either

Americans knew back in March the coronavirus was infectious and dangerous and a return to normalcy eventually would require a vaccine.

Defeating COVID-19 was always going to be a slog requiring commitment and sacrifice. As we wrote in April, best to accept 2020 as The Year of the Asterisk in which we embrace, rather than deny, upended reality and deal with work, school, recreation and social obligations as practically, realistically and cheerfully as possible. A wedding on Zoom? OK. Bring it.

November presents a difficult test because Illinois is caught in another surge of cases as part of an intensifying outbreak. Colder weather means more people are spending time inside. It's also flu season. As of Friday there were more people in Illinois hospitals with COVID-like symptoms—5,300—than at any previous point during the pandemic. For the weekend ending Thursday, the statewide positivity rate was 13.2%, up from 4.3% in early October.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot urged Chicagoans to “cancel” normal Thanksgiving get-togethers. Gov. J.B. Pritzker threatened he will institute a statewide lockdown if necessary.

But what also presents a difficult test is trust and judgment. The state recently changed the way it reports data, the Daily Herald reported, lumping “probable” cases of COVID into actual test-positive cases. That creates confusion for Illinoisans trying to assess the risks of infection and transmission, and it stirs up suspicion among the suspicious.

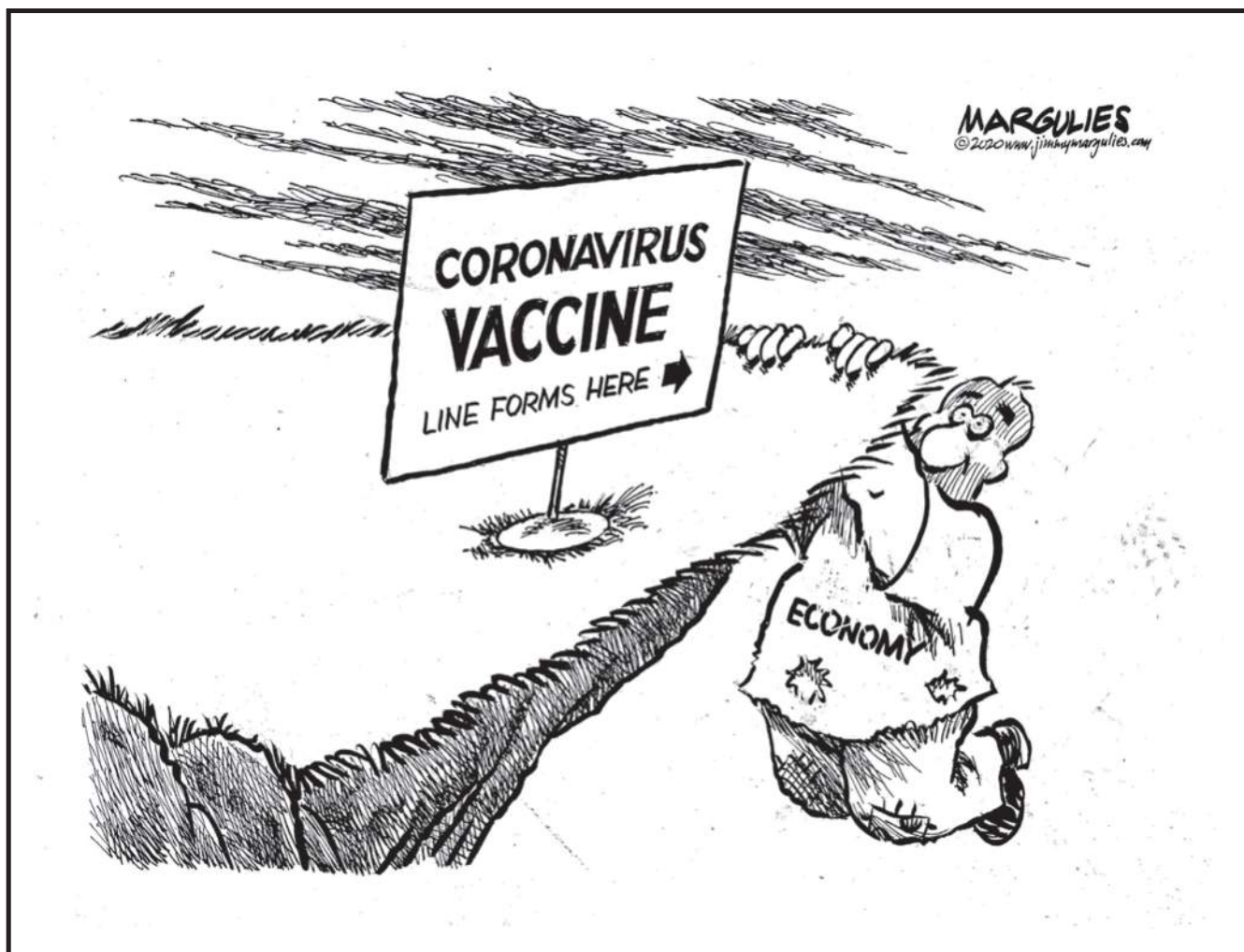
Both Lightfoot and Pritzker joined celebrations out in the streets for Joe Biden's presumptive victory, which seemed quite contrary—we're being generous—to their constant finger-wagging to stay home and avoid crowds. Lightfoot told a national news station: “Yes, there are times when we actually do need to have ... relief and come together, and I felt like that was one of those times. That crowd was gathered whether I was there or not, but this has been a super hard year on everyone. Everyone feels traumatized.”

There are times when we need to come together? Like the holidays?

What we do know is we're worn out—from the politicians not following their own dictates to the evolving, mandated protocols and to the sheer isolation of staying home. Progress against the virus feels fleeting.

Thanksgiving is coming, and both Pritzker and Lightfoot are legitimately worried about spread. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the week after are the busiest air travel days of the year. In 2019, more than 2 million passengers moved through O'Hare and Midway airports. Even a fraction of that activity during a pandemic is worrisome.

The state and city have issued guidance urging residents to stay home as much as possible, asking them to limit activities to necessities such as school, work, food shopping

See **THANKSGIVING** on Next Page

Don't be fooled. The coronavirus economy still needs help

COVID-19 is surging—but, finally, the light at the end of the tunnel is visible. Preliminary test results indicate that vaccines being developed by Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. are more effective than many dared to hope. Treatment protocols have improved and new therapies are available. The mortality rate from the virus is dropping.

Medical developments aren't the only thing to put a bounce in your step. The economy added an eye-popping 638,000 net new jobs in October, and the unemployment rate fell below 7%. The economy has so far avoided structural problems from the virus and recession. Commercial bankruptcy filings are actually below their pre-virus levels. Small businesses are surviving, with last spring's closures proving temporary and new-business formation surprisingly robust. Large U.S. corporations are beating their earnings estimates.

But don't let the good news obscure the economy's urgent need for additional government support. The economic recovery from this spring's recession is slowing, and the outlook for the winter is troubling. It would be a mistake to wait until President-elect Joe Biden is sworn into office in late January to give the economy the boost it needs today. Compromise between the two political parties will be difficult, but it is imperative.

The CARES Act—the \$1.8-trillion economic recovery law passed in March—helped the economy recover rapidly in May and June. Its effects are wearing off, and the recovery is slowing as a result. Relative to June, monthly job gains fell by 69% in August and 87% in October. There were 2.6 times as many long-term unemployed workers in October as there were in June.

Consumers are souring, as well. The University of Michigan's index of consumer sentiment for November fell to a three-month low. Consumer spending has retreated to its lowest level since early September, according to economists at JPMorgan Chase & Co. The March recovery law boosted incomes, and the personal savings rate shot up to 34% in April. But households are burning through their savings, and the rate had fallen by 20 percentage points in September.

The surging pandemic will suppress economic activity more this winter. So will colder weather, which will limit outdoor activities.

The economy needs support in November, December and January. Waiting until February—and allowing much damage in the intervening months—would be a grave mistake.

Yes, consumers may be more willing to tolerate the risk of getting sick in order to have more normal daily lives. So the economy might be able to grind through the winter, recovering

By **MICHAEL R. STRAIN**
Bloomberg Opinion

Michael R. Strain is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is director of economic policy studies and Arthur F. Burns Scholar in Political Economy at the American Enterprise Institute. He is the author of *The American Dream Is Not Dead: (But Populism Could Kill It)*.



at a slower pace, even given surging caseloads.

Even if that's likely, another economic recovery package is needed. The balance of risk strongly favors additional support. If optimists are wrong, the economic and human costs of inaction are significant. If they are right, the harm from too much additional stimulus is minimal. And the slowing pace of the recovery is reason enough to merit additional federal aid.

Some Democrats may prefer to wait until Biden is sworn in, expecting they could get more of what they want in a package of stimulus legislation. This strategy is risky and irresponsible. Senate Republicans will be less likely to give Biden a big win in February than President Donald Trump a big win in November. And in February, with the promise of a vaccine in wide distribution looming, Senate Republicans may feel less pressure to pass another expensive bill.

In addition, waiting until February means providing no help to unemployed workers, low-income households, schools and small businesses for the next three months. Democrats in Congress should not gamble with support for vulnerable households and business survival. They should want to stop the economy from taking on water today so that it is as strong as possible under Biden's watch.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is appropriately focused on the outcome of the Georgia Senate runoff elections in early January, which will determine whether his party keeps control of the Senate. McConnell should want to pass another stimulus this month so that moderate voters in Georgia don't perceive a Republican Senate to be an obstacle to economic recovery.

Senate Republicans put at risk the success of the March stimulus by not following up with the support the economy needs to-

See **CORONAVIRUS** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Celebrating Thanksgiving

Every year typically encompasses a few defining moments but the past 11 months have contained numerous world-changing, paradigm-shifting developments that are unimaginable; we're not in an exceeding simulation that's running every possible scenario without delay.

But there's no time to be wearied: With a scourge still raging, waves of social change swelling around the globe, and numerous catastrophes that are happening in different countries, there is still yet one month left to complete the whole history of 2020.

Celebrating Thanksgiving 2020 will be a far cry from the past few years. Many of us have weathered many faces of difficulties, but being grateful this year, especially amidst a pandemic, may not be easy. Think of what to be grateful for, despite all the mishaps that have happened in the past few months. Many people have suffered great losses because of the pandemic. COVID-19 is not the only onslaught that we have had this year. Last December 2019, Australia faced a devastating wildfire season that burned 47 million acres, displaced thousands of people, and killed at least 34 people. In Beirut, a massive explosion on Aug. 4 killed 190 people. In the middle of August, deadly wildfires erupted from California to Washington state and burned millions of acres, displacing thousands of people. The Philippines was recently stricken by devastating calamities, which caused starvation and massive floods that submerged houses and caused deaths. Those people who are in this situation may be on the brink of losing hope. These experiences for this year are emblematic of life, wherein surviving is our biggest blessing.

How can we be thankful for all these adversities that are happening around us? In the midst of these challenges we encounter, there are still many things that we can be thankful for. If you are still breathing at this moment, that can be your greatest blessing. Being simply grateful for being alive is the best way to motivate oneself to embrace and enjoy each day of our life. Irrespective of the circumstances we find ourselves in, we must see things to be grateful for, even the mundane things of life. That is how we draw the flow of positive

energy our way and receive the good things in life.

The Harvard Medical School provides more detail, writing that gratitude is: "a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. As a result, gratitude also helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals—whether to other people, nature, or a higher power."

Gratitude can be the greatest way to appreciate what we already have, rather than thinking of what we need to achieve to be happy. It can help us refocus our minds to be more appreciative of our lives and help us build healthy and thriving people. Being thankful is an excellent springboard to discovering the surge of beautiful hearts in our community and society. The year 2020 is survival; we should set aside complaining and start being grateful and be responsible for what we have. May we celebrate Thanksgiving every day of our life.

Rosemarie D. Embile

Susupe, Saipan

A complete history of CNMI elections. Anyone?

The 2020 election results provide an excellent opportunity for high school and college teachers and instructors to assign meaningful term papers to students of not only history, but also journalism, political science, U.S. government, graphics arts, and statistics.

Creating teams of students interested in each of these different subject areas might be interesting, as well.

Data on past elections can be found online at the Commonwealth Election Commission, the *Saipan Tribune*, and *Marianas Variety*.

A complete history of CNMI elections would begin with the first; however, a graph of the elections from 2000 to 2020 might be sufficient to demonstrate a meaningful trend.

When interpreting the results, the "end of the year" stories in both the *Variety* and the *Tribune* can be a source of the significant events that may have affected each election.

Should any students or student teams take on this challenge, I would very much like to read their results.

lethal, especially to the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions, but the mortality rate has declined since spring. It is highly infectious and can be passed on by someone who is asymptomatic, meaning a young healthy person can end up being responsible for an older person going to the hospital. Individuals and families need to keep their guard up and decide for themselves which daily activities need to be avoided.

One issue that has concerned us is Pritzker's focus on indoor restaurant dining as a safety concern. As the virus surged again in recent weeks, Lightfoot and the city health commissioner said the outbreak did not appear to be linked to restaurants. The more likely cause was people socializing indoors without following the social distancing protocols. Pritzker, though, has banned indoor dining again. Chain operators will survive this setback but locally owned restaurants, which are significant employers and cornerstones of their neighborhoods, are suffering.

A predictive study published online by *Nature* magazine suggests a balance can be struck to keep people safe and protect businesses. The study, based in part on data collected from cell-phones, used the Chicago area as an example and said that if restaurants partially reopened with capped maximum capacity at 20%, Chicago could cut down new infections by more than 80% while only losing 42% of overall restaurant visits. That is called compromise.

We don't expect the governor to loosen any restrictions immediately. The next days and weeks will be fateful. If the virus continues to spread and hospitalizations rise, Pritzker may determine he needs to issue a mandatory order. If everyone does their part, COVID-19 can still be contained.

Let's not give up the fight.

Who knows, perhaps there is a future historian in the group?

Don A. Farrell

Marpo Heights, Tinian

Customs officials at CK post office

I have a concern regarding the Customs officials' station at the U.S. Post Office who're demanding postal customers to surrender their mail or packages to be search and inspected.

I asked one of the Customs agents what gives them the authority to demand inspection and search a postal customer when federal law prohibit searching first class mail without a warrant? He pointed to a sign on the wall for me to read it. The sign cited Local Custom code 70-10.1-520. I researched the code and this is what I found:

"Pursuant to applicable U.S. Postal Service regulations and/or memorandum of agreement between U.S. Postal Service and the Commonwealth, mail and parcels arriving at the post office may be inspected by the Customs Service in order to detect goods, merchandise, or other commodities and to assess excise taxes; and to detect and intercept contraband; and to enforce other laws and regulations enforced at the ports of entry. (b) Customs Service will request addressees of mail or their designated representatives to open their mail and parcels for inspection."

There was no mention what U. S. postal regulation it is, whether it is a federal statute or not. Memorandum of agreement is not a law enacted by Congress. Postal regulation or memorandum does have the authority to mandate a local agency to perform search and seizures.

It is very clear that the Constitution only permits search and seizure when there is reasonable suspicion, or a probable cause in case there isn't any.

I am requesting that the attorney general investigate this matter in order that personal rights are not violated further. Any assistance will be much appreciated.

Joe Sablan

via email

CORONAVIRUS

From Page 8

day. The Paycheck Protection Program has helped stem a wave of small-business bankruptcies. But why spend hundreds of billions to ensure small business continuity from April until December, just to see millions of bankruptcies in January?

The outlines of a compromise are clear. Another round of PPP, perhaps targeted at even smaller businesses—say, those with less than 300 employees—than in the March CARES Act. Spending for public health measures, including increasing testing. Renewing the CARES Act's expansions of unemployment insurance benefit duration and eligibility, and supplementing state-provided benefits by a few hundred dollars per week. Offering businesses protection against COVID-19-related lawsuits. Expanding food stamps. Offering grants to state and local governments to avoid layoffs and help schools reopen.

This compromise has elements that both parties (and I) would rather not see signed into law. But it is reasonable, and would command majorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives. It would cost around \$1 trillion, which is both politically feasible and appropriate to the need. Democrats should be willing to accept a few billion dollars less than that, and Republicans should be willing to spend a few billion dollars more.

The two parties are at a stalemate, each preferring to blame the other for a lack of progress than to compromise. The odds are currently against another stimulus. But it could happen with presidential leadership. House Democrats would need to stop allowing the perfect to be the enemy of the good and agree to a compromise that can pass the Senate. McConnell would need to bring a compromise to the Senate floor, knowing that it would lose a dozen or two Republican votes and pass with the support of Democrats.

And Trump should be told this: "If you want your legacy to be that you saved the economy from the pandemic recession, the CARES Act isn't enough. Break the stalemate. Today."

THANKSGIVING

From Page 8

and picking up restaurant orders. Pritzker says he's watching the infection numbers closely and could issue a mandatory stay-at-home order if the outbreak doesn't abate.

Our best, most optimistic advice is to take on Thanksgiving and the holiday season as joyful variations on a theme, which means find different, safe ways to celebrate and give thanks. Our favorite debate of the past week has been whether to describe a remote family gathering as Zoomsgiving or ThanksZooming.

Holding smaller gatherings is a reasonable ask. Thanksgiving is not canceled. But expecting a nation to stay in lockdown mode indefinitely is not realistic. Shutdowns have inflicted devastating economic consequences for families and business owners.






To some extent the pandemic isn't different from other aspects of life—it requires accepting personal responsibility and thinking through consequences.

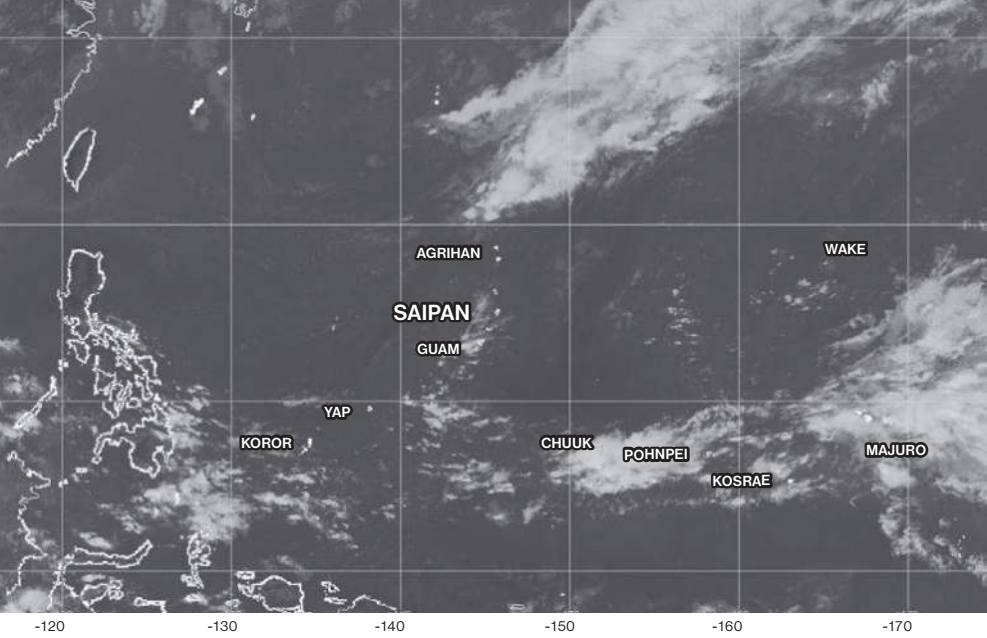
"I'll be having more than 10 pp. at my house on Thanksgiving," tweeted a Staten Island, N.Y., councilman defying common sense advice and stirring up debate across the country. "My address is public record. Some family will come from (gasp!) New Jersey. Kids will see their grandparents, cousins will play in the yard, sis in law will bring strawberry rhubarb pie, & a turkey will be overcooked."

These are the precise at-home rebellions that have led to case spread. Don't be that guy.

A key challenge of the pandemic is assessing the risks. Is it worth insisting on your traditional, extended family Thanksgiving get-together? COVID-19 is a new virus and not fully understood. Some basic assertions are holding true: It is potentially

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	89°	78°	89°	77°	88°	77°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:10 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Easterly trade-winds prevail over the Marianas this morning. A surface trough is located just to the west of the local area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas

to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:14 AM	9:43 PM	-
Friday	11:09 AM	10:41 PM	-
Saturday	11:58 AM	11:37 PM	-
Sunday	12:42 PM	-	-
Monday	-	12:29 AM	1:21 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°	
Beijing	Sunny	54° / 27°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 63°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 56°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°	
Miami	Rain	77° / 72°	
New York	Sunny	49° / 37°	
Osaka	Sunny	55° / 43°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°	
Busan	Sunny	55° / 46°	
Rome	Sunny	59° / 41°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	59° / 42°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	54° / 41°	
Tokyo	Sunny	55° / 43°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	49° / 34°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:26 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.62	
11:52 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.80	
5:22 PM	LOW TIDE	1.18	
9:35 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.63	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK

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DHS seeks to limit work permits for aliens for deportation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Homeland Security announced yesterday a proposed rule that would limit discretionary work authorization for aliens who have final orders of removal and who have been temporarily released from DHS custody on an order of supervision.

The rule would align the issuance of discretionary employment authorization with the administration's priorities

to protect U.S. workers and strengthen immigration enforcement.

Orders of supervision allow DHS to place conditions on and monitor aliens with final orders of removal who have been temporarily released from DHS custody until DHS has the travel documents necessary to remove the alien from

the United States. The OSUP contains several conditions for release, including

» Rule will encourage these aliens to depart the country

a requirement that aliens cooperate with efforts to procure the travel documents for removal, check in with DHS on designated dates, and present themselves for removal once it is arranged. "Authorizing employment

benefits to aliens who have already had due process and have been ordered removed by the U.S. government undermines the rule of law and weakens DHS enforcement and removal operations," said USCIS deputy director for Policy Joseph Edlow. "This effort would also remove the economic incentive for these aliens to not cooperate in the effort to obtain travel documents to return to

their home countries."

Under current regulations, an alien who has a final order of removal and who is temporarily released from DHS custody on an OSUP is generally eligible for an employment authorization document. This creates a disincentive for the alien to depart or cooperate with their home country to obtain travel documents to depart the United States. These aliens have used substantial government resources throughout the removal process and have ultimately been ordered removed from the United States by an immigration judge.

Under the proposed rule, only a small subset of these aliens who can demonstrate that DHS has determined that their removal from the United States is impracticable would remain eligible for discretionary employment authorization. DHS will require such aliens to establish economic necessity to work, consistent with other discretionary EAD categories, and USCIS will assess whether they warrant a fa-

vorable exercise of discretion for a grant of employment authorization. In addition, aliens who qualify for discretionary employment authorization under the proposed rule and subsequently seek to renew their work authorization would also be required to establish that their employer participates in E-Verify and is in good standing in the program.

The proposed rule also would limit the validity period of the employment authorization for aliens released on an OSUP to one year, regardless of whether it is an initial or a renewal employment authorization. When a final rule is published, the changes made by the rule will apply to initial and renewal applications filed on or after the final rule's effective date. Aliens who are employment-authorized prior to the final rule's effective date will remain employment authorized until the expiration date on their EAD, unless the EAD is terminated or revoked. The final rule also would not affect applications to replace EADs granted before the final rule's effective date. (USCIS)

Guam Guard command team visits SECFOR 3

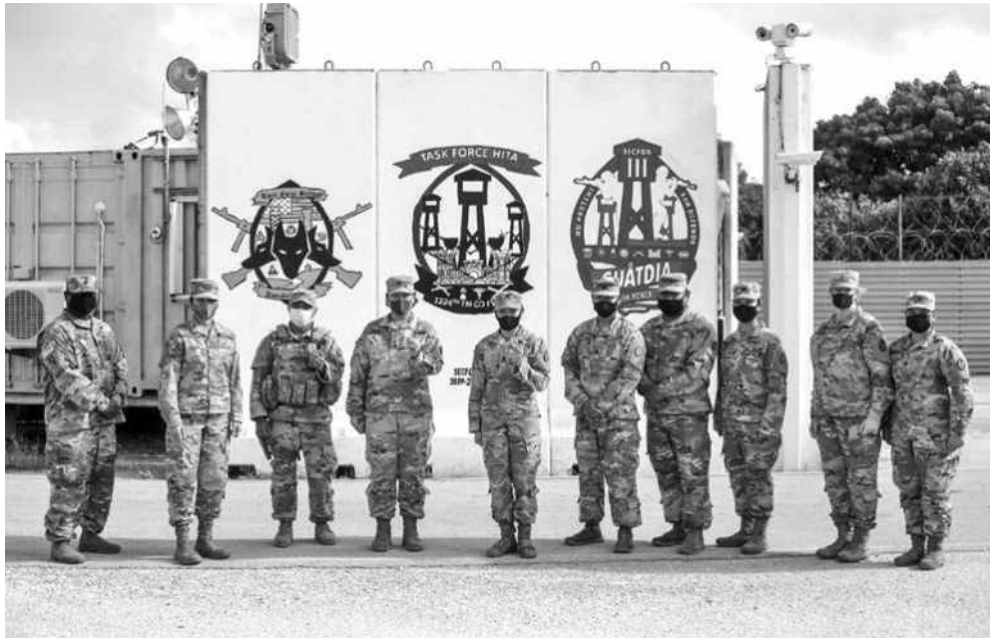
BARRIGADA, Guam—The Guam National Guard's command team paid a visit to its SECFOR 3 unit, which is currently deployed to Northern Guam, during drill weekend this past Saturday.

The command team, consisting of Maj. Gen. (GU) Esther Aguigui, the adjutant general; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Vickie Carriaga, state command chief warrant officer; and Command Sgt. Maj. Celso Leonen, acting state command sergeant major, spoke with the soldiers of SECFOR 3, which is tasked with providing security to Guam's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system.

The command team visited operations centers and guard towers, speaking to soldiers about their mission, family life, and overall wellbeing.

Spc. Sean Rasa was stationed at Tower 3 during the visit. "I'm happy to be protecting my family and neighbors on Guam, and I would do this again in a heartbeat," said Rasa.

Other soldiers shared similar messages of staying mo-



The command group of the Guam National Guard visits soldiers deployed to the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense site in Northern Guam on Nov. 14.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

tivated and focused on their task and purpose. Led on the tour by SECFOR 3 leadership Capt. Farin Mondia and 1st Sgt. Clay Elicio, the command team got a good sense of troop morale and living conditions. The visit was concluded with remarks of gratitude from Aguigui, and presentations of

coins of excellence.

"What you do makes a significant difference to national security," said Aguigui in her remarks. "Everyone wants world peace, and this is where it starts. You are protecting our not only our families and neighbors here on Guam, but the rest of the world, because

we are at the forefront. So thank you for raising your hand to do this mission, and please thank your families as well. Because this is worth defending, and I can tell by your motivation here today that for SECFOR 3 - losing is not an option." (Guam National Guard Public Affairs)

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9:00am, Friday, November 20, 2020, at the Commonwealth Casino Commission Office, Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Adoption of Minutes
- VI. Commonwealth Casino Commission Update
- VII. IPI Status Update
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Community Benefit Fund
 - b. Online Gaming
- IX. Executive Session
- X. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-010

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 07, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) BRUSH FIRE TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (ROTA BRANCH). A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP21-DCCA/CCDF-008

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 07, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"TO UPDATE THE CNMI EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS, PRE-SCHOOL, & THROUGH KINDERGARDEN ENTRY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMIN. VIA E-MAIL AT mloste.cnmicdf@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, NOVEMBER 25, 2020. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE, BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, NOVEMBER 23, 2020. ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING THROUGHOUT THE MEETING.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Business

All-time favorites at *Savory Cuisine*

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Salivating for all-time Filipino favorites? Look no farther than the newly opened Savory Cuisine at the Kada Dia everyday market in Chalan Kanoa.

Owner Jennifer Elayda said she opened Savory Cuisine in mid-September and chose Kada Dia because of its very strategic location in the middle of Saipan.

"That area is relatively bustling with people whether they are on a lunch break from work or school or passing by from the post office. Kada Dia is the most convenient location for this type of grab-and-go business," she said.

Elayda said she chose the name Savory Cuisine to exactly reflect the kind of food they offer at the food stall. "It's dedicated toward savory dishes that could satisfy customers during breakfast, lunch, and dinner-time. Our menu consists of all-time favorites for all ages like spaghetti for kids who crave pasta and siomai and finger foods for working adults who are always on the go."

Aside from Filipino sweet spaghetti and siomai, food items that customers keep coming back for more at Savory Cuisine include their delicious chili cheese fries. "The chili is a homemade recipe that we've had for years and it is well seasoned to blend with the nacho cheese that we would drape over fresh French fries. It tastes best when it's hot and it currently [costs] only \$5.99."

Another bestseller is Savory Cuisine's beef tapa, which preparation includes marinating the tender beef overnight in order to soak it in a full satisfying flavor.

But what truly makes Savory Cuisine different from other food stalls on island is its wide variety of food items available. "We are a flexible establishment that includes all sorts of food assortments ranging from light snacks to full lunches and we also provide catering services for private occasions. Our menu is diverse, showcasing different styles of dishes that we see on island from the Filipino favorite halo-halo to Japanese-style tonkatsu. Some restaurants may have one or the other, but we have a wide variety."

To celebrate its opening, Savory Cuisine has an ongoing



Savory Cuisine is located at the Kada Dia everyday market and is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 7pm.



Savory Cuisine's siomai.



Savory Cuisine's Filipino sweet spaghetti.

promotion where customers only need to follow their Facebook page and look out for their updated posts every week. "You can share that update and if your share gets 10 likes or more, you can bring that down to the snack bar to redeem 50% off a dish of your choice. You can contact us anytime in case you have any questions regarding that promo," said Elayda.

Savory Cuisine is also the perfect food stall as far as following the guidelines of the COVID-19 Task Force are concerned. "We actually modeled our snack bar around the necessary precautions of this pandemic. We figured that it was more practical and ideal that customers could just order our food and take it out instead of dining in and potentially harm others in these trying times. A lot of people come



Savory Cuisine's beef tapa with egg.

by for this sort of convenience and safety.

Elayda said like other business establishments, Savory Cuisine adheres to the 6 feet apart requirement outside of the stall and there's a two-person limit for the employees working inside. "They (staff) also don their personal protective equipment such as hairnets, gloves, and face-masks when handling orders. The employees thoroughly wash their hands and cooking utensils after each use to remain sanitary."

Savory Cuisine is located at the Kada Dia everyday market and is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 7pm. For more information or for advance orders, call 783-6342 or contact them via Facebook.

Nation

Biden's DIY transition proceeds without assistance from Trump

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—President Donald Trump's refusal to cooperate with his successor is forcing President-elect Joe Biden to seek unusual workarounds to prepare for the exploding public health threat and evolving national security challenges he will inherit in just nine weeks.

Blocked from the official intelligence briefing traditionally afforded to incoming presidents, Biden gathered virtually on Tuesday with a collection of intelligence, defense and diplomatic experts. None of the experts are currently affiliated with the U.S. government, raising questions about whether Biden is being provided the most up-to-date information about dangers facing the nation.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris received a more formal briefing on Tuesday as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, though still has relatively limited information about the specific threats Biden will inherit.

And as the worst pandemic in a century bears down on the U.S. with renewed ferocity, the current administration is blocking Biden

from collaborating with its response team. Biden's representatives instead plan to meet directly with pharmaceutical companies this week to determine how best to distribute at least two promising vaccines to hundreds of millions of Americans, the biggest logistical challenge to face a new president in generations.

The moves reflect how Biden is adjusting to a historically tense transition. With no sign that Trump is prepared to facilitate soon a peaceful transfer of power, Biden and his team are instead working through a series of backup options to do the best they can to prepare for the challenges he will face as soon as he takes office in January.

Declining to criticize Trump, Biden acknowledged Tuesday that he has "not been receiving briefings that would ordinarily come by now" as he opened his virtual meeting with the national security experts. The 12 participants, who appeared on video screens, included former Deputy CIA Director David Cohen, retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal and Avril Haines, a deputy

national security adviser in the Obama administration, among others.

Biden said he was preparing to inherit "a divided country and a world in disarray."

"That's why I need you all," he said.

Two weeks after the election, Trump continues to block Biden's access to his administration's pandemic and national security briefings, falsely claiming that Biden is not the legitimate president-elect because of non-existent voter fraud. The Democrat defeated the Republican president 10 days ago, and Trump's flailing legal strategy to block the certification of the election results is quickly fizzling out.

A study released on Tuesday by the Center for Presidential Transition at the nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service warned that an abbreviated transition could impair Biden's ability to fill the more than 1,200 administration jobs requiring Senate confirmation, including key Cabinet and sub-Cabinet posts on the front lines of addressing the pandemic.

Toilet paper limits, empty shelves are back as virus surges

NEW YORK (AP)—Looking for toilet paper? Good luck.

A surge of new coronavirus cases in the U.S. is sending people back to stores to stockpile again, leaving shelves bare and forcing retailers to put limits on purchases.

Walmart said Tuesday it's having trouble keeping up with demand for cleaning supplies in some stores. Supermarket chains Kroger and Publix are limiting how much toilet paper and paper towels shoppers can buy after demand spiked recently. And Amazon is sold out of most disinfectant wipes and paper towels.

A similar scene played out back in March, when the pandemic first hit and people hunkered down in their homes.

But Geoff Freeman, president and CEO of the Consumer Brands Association, formerly the Grocery Manufacturers Association, said he doesn't expect things to be as bad this go-around since lockdowns are being han-

dled on a regional basis and everyone is better prepared.

"A more informed consumer combined with a more informed manufacturer and a more informed retailer should provide all of us with a greater sense of ease and ensure we can meet this growing demand," Freeman said.

The biggest supply issue seems to be paper products: 21% of shelves that stock paper towels and toilet paper are empty, the highest level in at least a month, according to market research company IRI. Cleaning supplies have remained level at 16%. Before the pandemic, 5% to 7% of consumer goods were typically out of stock, IRI said.

Contributing to the problem is the fact that roughly 10% of the workforce at manufacturing plants where the products are made are calling out sick, mainly because they've been in contact with others who were tested positive to COVID-19, Freeman said.

Kelly Anderson of Colorado Springs, Colorado, said

she needs more supplies now that in-person school in her area was canceled earlier this month and her two children are at home more. She's noticed others are stocking up, too: Safeway and Walmart were nearly wiped out of bottled water and disinfectant wipes during a recent visit, both of which had been easy to find since the summer.

It's also been harder to find a time slot to get her groceries delivered. Anderson says she's had to wait as many as two days instead of same-day delivery. But that's still not as bad as earlier this year.

"March seems like a million years ago, but I do remember freaking out," she said. "I couldn't get groceries delivered for a week."

Walmart said while supplies are stressed in some areas, it thinks it will be able to handle any stockpiling now than earlier this year. Amazon said its working with manufacturers to get items such as disinfecting wipes, paper towels and hand sanitizer in stock.

World

AMID CHINA'S RISE

Australia, Japan to bolster defense ties

TOKYO (AP)—The leaders of Australia and Japan held in-person talks on Tuesday and reached a basic agreement on a bilateral defense pact that would allow their troops to work more closely, as the two U.S. allies seek to bolster their ties to counter China's growing assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his Japanese counterpart, Yoshihide Suga, said the legal framework, called a Reciprocal Access Agreement, would allow their troops to visit each other's countries for training and joint operations. It would also enhance their inter-operability and cooperation, they said.

The deal is the first of its kind for Japan since its 1960 status of forces agreement with the United States, which set the terms for the basing of about 50,000 American troops to operate in and around Japan under the Japan-U.S. security pact.

The two leaders also agreed to cooperate in tackling climate change, including "working together for a lower emission and zero emission future," Morrison told a joint news conference.

He called the defense agreement a "landmark" development for the two countries, which are both allies of the U.S. while maintaining significant trade with China. Australia and Japan also have very strong and positive relations with all countries in the Indo-Pacific, Morrison said.

Japan is committed to maintaining and deepening its 60-year-old alliance with the U.S. as the cornerstone of its diplomacy and security, but has in recent years sought to complement its regional

defense by stepping up cooperation with others, especially Australia, amid growing Chinese maritime activity. Japan officially limits itself to self-defense and bans first strikes under its post World War II pacifist constitution, but increased its defense role and spending under former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Abe pushed for greater military cooperation and weapons compatibility with the U.S. as Japanese forces increasingly work alongside U.S. troops. He also increased purchases of costly American stealth fighters and other weapons.

Suga, who took office in September after Abe resigned due to ill health, is continuing his predecessor's diplomatic and security policies.

Japan considers Australia to be a semi-ally and the two countries signed a defense cooperation agreement in 2007, a first for Japan with a country other than the U.S. The two nations agreed on the sharing of military supplies in 2013 and expanded the deal in 2017 to include munitions after Japan eased restrictions on arms equipment transfers.

Suga said Japan and Australia are "special strategic partners" that are both committed to fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and are working together to achieve peace and stability in the region.

Suga said the new agreement underpins their determination to contribute to regional peace and will (asterisk)elevate our security cooperation to a new level."

In a joint statement, Suga and Morrison expressed "serious concerns about the situation" in the South and East China Seas and "strong opposition" to militarizing disputed islands and other unilateral attempts to change the status quo, without identifying China—signaling their sensitivity toward their biggest trading partner.

The president noted that two different vaccines have been approved in Russia, and a third one was "in the works."

Putin touts Russian virus vaccines at BRICS summit

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin told BRICS leaders Tuesday that coronavirus vaccines developed in Russia "work effectively and safely" and urged the group of emerging economy nations to "join forces" for the mass production of the shots.

Putin's remarks come after early results of large studies of several experimental CO-

VID-19 vaccines, including a Russian one, were announced. The BRICS grouping is made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Moderna Inc. said Monday its vaccine appears to be 94.5% effective, according to preliminary data from an ongoing study. Last week, Pfizer Inc. said its own vaccine looked 90% effective.

Two days after the Pfizer

announcement, developers of the Russian-made vaccine Sputnik V said early data from a large trial suggested the shots were 92% effective. However, the conclusion was based on a much lower number of infections recorded during the trial—20 compared to 94 in Pfizer's case and 95 in the study of Moderna's vaccine.

Russia came under a wave

of international criticism for giving Sputnik V regulatory approval in August, since the shots have yet to complete advanced studies among tens of thousands of people necessary to establish the vaccine's safety and effectiveness. However, two months later, Russian authorities approved another jab after early stage studies.

Addressing the leaders of Brazil, India, China and South Africa at an online summit Tuesday, Putin stressed

that "coordinating collective BRICS measures" to tackle the pandemic is the alliance's priority. He also said Russia was ready to cooperate with its BRICS partners "in the manufacturing and use" of the Russian-made vaccines.

"There are Russian vaccines—they work effectively and safely," Putin said. "It is very important to join forces for the mass production of these products for wide circulation."

The president noted that two different vaccines have been approved in Russia, and a third one was "in the works."

The Russian Direct Investment Fund, which bankrolled the development of Sputnik V, has agreements with India and Brazil to conduct trials of the jab, and with pharmaceutical companies in India and China to produce it, Putin said.

"I think this is very important," the Russian president added.



MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

†JASON FRANKLIN MARATITA SABLAN

JANUARY 1, 1980 – NOVEMBER 08, 2020
LOVINGLY KNOWN AS "PEPS"

In humble gratitude, we the family of the late †Jason Franklin Maratita Sablan, is grateful to everyone who has helped us during this very difficult time. Your kindness and love for our family means a great deal to us. We appreciate all the love and support you have extended to us during this period of sadness. Again, thank you for your support and prayers.

May God Bless Us All.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Colleen Salas Deleon Guerrero,
Tyanna D.L.G. Sablan, Lourdes
Maria D.L.G. Sablan & Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Maria Matilde Rios Iglecias

Born to Life: October 23, 1941 - Called to Eternal Life: November 1, 2020

In her new life, she now joins her:
Husband: †Anselmo Manglona Iglecias
Parents: †Mariano Rios
 †Concepcion Rosario Rios
Parents-in-law: †Anselmo Celis Iglecias
 †Antonia Manglona Iglecias
 †Lorenzo Manglona Iglecias
In-laws: †Ignacia Iglecias Camacho
 †Antonio C. Camacho
 †Carmen Iglecias Lizama
 †Albert Lizama
 †Antonia Manglona Iglecias

Her wonderful and loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children: Mariano R. & Pauline R. Iglecias (Ryan Casey/Keanah, Marita/Shawn Craig [Mariana Uniku], Hayley Gin, Moira Alaina) Anselmo Jr. & Veronica H. Iglecias (Angel Marty/Aireen [Ayden Jayce]) Jesse & Jenny Lynn C. Iglecias (Antonio) Edward & Nelly N. Iglecias (Camille, Eddie John, Elissa Marie, Ran Renee) Raymond & Melody L. Iglecias (Anthony Joey, Vincent/Mymel [Jose Vincent], Allison Marie Helen I. & Leo Ueda [Marica, Tungelel] Barbie & Larry Singa (Jason Peter, Anselmo John, Weltimar)

In-laws: Joaquin & Jesusa P. Iglecias & family Andresina I. Benavente & family Matilde I. & David S. Celis & family Rosa I. & James Heil & family Steve Schram & family Ernie Balbin & family Merced I. & Ray Dela Cruz & family Thomas & Liza Iglecias & family

Reared Grandsons: Kerr, Kenji & Kobe Abobo

Maria will also be missed by numerous God children, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Daily mass services are being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 pm. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2020. Holy rosary and public viewing will be held at 8:00 am to 10:30 am at the Nuestra Señora Dela Paz (Cabrera's Funeral Home).

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 am at Kristo Rai Church followed immediately by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and God Bless us all.
The Family

Environment

IMPROVING THE AIR WE BREATHE

DOCOMO Pacific partners with Aura Air to improve indoor air quality in Marianas

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

As we all now walk around wearing face masks to protect ourselves and each other due to COVID-19, never has more attention been placed on the importance of the quality of air we breathe here on island and the rest of the world.

Plus, with the more vulnerable amongst us, the elderly and those with compromised immune system, urged to stay home to avoid the risk of getting exposed to the virus, indoor air quality has also now become a huge concern.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states that in addition to close contact with infected people and contaminated surfaces, COVID-19 may also spread via airborne particles in indoor environments, in some circumstances beyond the recommended 6-foot range for social distancing.

Although the risk of COVID-19 cannot be eliminated by just improving ventilation and cleaning the air alone, EPA recommends “increasing ventilation with outdoor air and air filtration as important components of a larger strategy that includes social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings or masks, surface cleaning and disinfecting, hand washing, and other precautions.”

Last Tuesday, DOCOMO Pacific announced its partnership with Aura Air to help improve indoor air quality here in the Marianas.

“Air quality requires our attention today. While many



Clockwise from the top: DOCOMO Pacific president and CEO Roderick Boss, Aura Air vice president for sales and business development Roei Friedberg, SHEBA Medical Center's Dr. Vladimir Glukhman, and DOCOMO public relations manager Jared Alberto during the virtual press conference for the DOCOMO-Aura Air partnership last Tuesday.

of us worry about the outside air, indoor air is five times more polluted. With most of us spending 90% of our time indoors, every breath we take affects our overall health more than we realize.”

Indoor air pollution, a global emergency

Aura Air was founded three years ago, in Israel, with the mission of improving indoor air quality globally. The coronavirus pandemic may have heightened our concern on the air we breathe now, but indoor air pollution has been a global public emergency even before COVID-19.

According to EPA, at home, indoor pollution sources that release gases or particles into the air are the primary cause of indoor air quality prob-

lems. These include combustion sources such as oil, gas, kerosene, coal, wood, tobacco products, building materials and furnishings, household cleaning products, and central heating and cooling systems and humidification devices. Higher temperature and humidity levels also make indoor pollution worse.

“Molds, pollutants, allergens, airborne viruses like the coronavirus, all contribute to poor respiratory [system], and lower immune health... We were able to find what we think is the best air filter available, and one that would fit well with our ‘Smart Island, Smart Life’ focus,” DOCOMO Pacific president and CEO Roderick Boss said. “We’re really proud to partner with Aura Air and bring

this revolutionary product to Guam and the CNMI, so we can all breathe easy.”

Aura Air operates in more than 44 countries, in hospitals, hotels, schools, offices, and transportation. This includes, in the United States, the University of Maryland and Jacksonville University in Florida, Hilton Hotels, Silverstein Properties in New York, Carrier Headquarters in Florida, among others.

How Aura Air works

“Our technology is a data driven air quality platform, based on user behavior algorithms,” Aura Air vice president for sales and business development Roei Friedberg explained. “It is a device which you hang on the wall or ceiling, connect to electricity, and it will cover up to 600 sq. ft.”

An “all-in-one indoor air purification and quality intelligence system,” Aura filters and disinfects indoor air through a unique four-stage purification process—detection, algorithm, purification and disinfection, and real-time monitoring.

Aura Air will detect real time parameters of indoor and outdoor air quality based on an array of smart sensors. These include, for indoors, parameters like smoke, CO, CO₂, VOC, PM 2.5, and PM10, temperature, and humidity. The idea is for the device to understand the origin of the problem.

The algorithm then allows users to personalize—control, define, and modify functionalities of the device. The algorithm will understand where the device is installed, and who the end users are. Is it inside a hospital, in a room for a patient with asthma? Is it inside a house? After understanding the environment and the end users, the device will adapt functions and recommendations based on the algorithm.

Third is purification and disinfection, a step which follows four unique stages of filtration and disinfection. This include the pre-filter that captures large particles of dust, pollen, insects, animal hair, followed by the second stage, Aura Air’s patent Ray filter, which filters smaller particles (0.3 microns), VOCs and bad odors, as well as viruses and bacteria.

According to Friedberg, inside the device are four UVC LEDs that targets and disinfects smaller microns, such as coronavirus. Aside from that, it also is built with a Sterionizer that purifies and freshens indoor air by eliminating harmful pollutants.

Lastly, air quality data is monitored in real-time to provide customized insights and recommendations to the end-users based on their health needs. Aura Air is a plug and play device, with a mobile app to see real time indoor and outdoor air quality data and recommendations. The installation takes around four minutes, and maintenance around three seconds, added Friedberg.

Clearing indoor air of pollution

“The importance of the system is not only to prevent the infection of COVID-19 but all kinds of droplets infection, and to decrease illness of this kind of infection, regarding all types of the pathogens,” Dr. Vladimir Glukhman said.

Glukhman, who has a PhD

in microbiology, led the Aura Air pilot program at Sheba Medical Center in Israel, recognized as one of the 10 best hospitals in the world. “I have experience about 25 years in this field of environmental protection. First time I see this kind of effectiveness for virus infection,” he added.

Last week, DOCOMO Pacific delivered smart air filters to the Guam Memorial Hospital, as part of a pilot program with Aura Air, where air quality in various parts of the hospital will be monitored before the filters get activated, as well as during the air purification process. DOCOMO Pacific has also donated the filters to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. here on Saipan.

“In an effort to mitigate the spread of SARS COV 2 among our staff at Guam Memorial Hospital, we are grateful to take part in the Aura Air pilot program for the benefit of our hospital staff and patients,” said GMH COVID-19 medical director Dr. Joleen Aguon.

Guam Medical Care medical director Dr. Geoffrey Galgo, who has been using the Aura Air filter for a couple of months, also attests that the smart component is groundbreaking, where one can get notified on detections in increases in air pollutants through a phone app.

“With the sustained rise in positive cases, we felt like we needed to do more. When we found Aura Air, we knew that offering a smart air filter, an added layer of protection against COVID-19, would serve a critical need in our hospitals, in our schools and businesses and most importantly, in our homes,” Boss said.

“We want to be really clear that this filter does not claim to be a replacement for PPE, but it becomes an added layer of protection. Please continue to wash your hands, wear a mask and socially distance, and follow mandates set forth by local government health professionals,” he added.

Aside from hospitals, Aura filters have also been placed in all of DOCOMO Pacific’s retail locations. Aura Air’s goal is to be able to operate in the most important hospitals in the world, in offices, in hotel rooms, retail stores, and even homes, to provide a healthy and safe indoor environment for all.

Aura Air units are exclusively available at DOCOMO Pacific for \$549 (retail) or \$22.88 per month. For more information, visit docomopacific.com or call CNMI 488-CARE.

The Ray Filter™

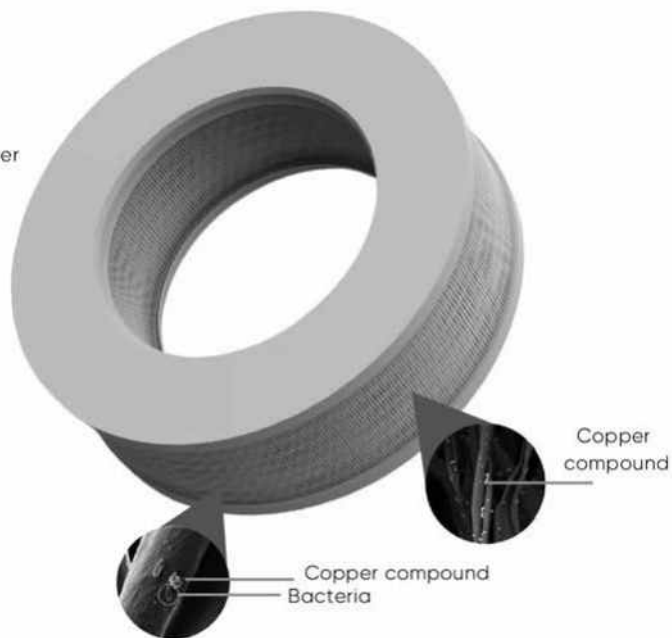
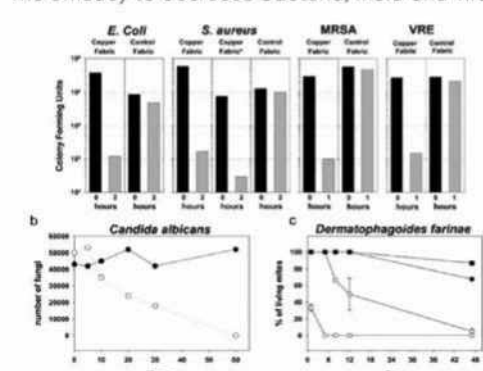
The Ray Filter™ consists of three parts:

HEPA - 99.98% effective particle filter of 0.3 microns.

Carbon layer - absorbs VOC's and bad odors.

Smart Copper Fabric - a smart fabric consisting of a copper layer filter that filters viruses, bacteria, and more.

The efficacy to decrease bacteria, mold and viruses:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aura Air's patent Ray filter consists of three parts: HEPA(99.98% effective particle filter of 0.3 microns), Carbon layer (absorbs VOC's and bad odors), and the Smart Copper Fabric (filters viruses, bacteria, and more).

Life & Style

Video shows unauthorized man with flamethrower atop NYC bus

NEW YORK (AP)—A rapper who said he was making a tribute to a legendary New York City hip-hop group was recorded

Rapper Lil Wayne charged with federal gun offense in Florida

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Rapper Lil Wayne was charged Tuesday in Florida with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, a federal offense that carries a potential sentence of up to 10 years in prison.



Carter Jr.

Documents filed in Miami federal court say the rapper, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., had a gun and ammunition on Dec. 23 of last year despite knowing he had the previous felony on his record.

Authorities said the 38-year-old rapper acknowledged owning the gold-plated handgun after his luggage was searched upon arriving in Miami on a private plane. A search warrant, first reported by the Miami Herald at

the time, said Carter told investigators the gun was a Father's Day gift.

Carter's attorney, Howard Srebnick, said in an email that there are legal questions about whether mere possession of a weapon by a felon not judged to be dangerous fits the definition of a crime.

"Carter is charged with possessing a gold-plated handgun in his luggage on a private plane. There is no allegation that he ever fired it, brandished it, used it or threatened to use it," Srebnick said. "There is no allegation that he is a dangerous person."

Investigators also reported finding suspected illegal drugs in the luggage, but Carter has not been charged with a drug offense.

shooting a flamethrower from the top of an occupied city bus in an unsanctioned stunt a transit agency spokesman called "absurd, dangerous and just plain stupid."

Bystander video, taken in Brooklyn earlier this month, gained attention on social media on Tuesday after a police union tweeted it as an example of the city becoming less safe. The

police department said it was investigating the Nov. 8 incident.

The city's transit agency said it was an unauthorized event performed by the rapper Dupree G.O.D, who said in an Instagram post that he was shooting a video tribute to the Wu-Tang Clan, the celebrated New York City hip-hop group.

Dupree, who also refers to

himself as the Flame G.O.D, posted drone footage of the effort. In an earlier Instagram post, he invited people to the area for ice cream, T-shirts and champagne. A message seeking comment was left with Dupree.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority said 25 passengers on the bus were discharged at the next stop and picked up

by the next bus on the route. No injuries were reported.

"We don't even need to say how absurd, dangerous and just plain stupid this was," MTA spokesperson Tim Minton said. "The reckless individual who torched over the top of an occupied bus put New Yorkers, including the bus operator, in life-threatening peril."

Tarantino has deal for 2 books on films, including 1 his own

NEW YORK (AP)—Quentin Tarantino's next work of imagination will be in book form.

The Oscar-winning director has a two-book deal with Harper, beginning with a novelization of "Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood" that is scheduled for next summer. "Once Upon a Time" will be a true Tarantino production: The book will come out first as a mass market paperback, like the old pulp novels the filmmaker loves, and will offer "a fresh, playful and shocking departure from the film," according to Harper.

The film version of "Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood" was released in 2019 and stars Leonardo DiCaprio as an actor and Brad Pitt as his stunt double. Nominated for 10 Academy Awards and winner of two, the movie is set in Los Angeles in 1969, around the time of the killings by Charles Manson's followers.

"In the '70s movie novelizations were the first adult books I grew up reading," Tarantino said in a statement Tuesday. "And to this day I have a tremendous amount of affection for the genre. So as a movie-novelization aficionado, I'm

proud to announce 'Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood' as my contribution to this often marginalized, yet beloved sub-genre in literature. I'm also thrilled to further explore my characters and their world in a literary endeavor that can (hopefully) sit alongside its cinematic counterpart."

Tarantino's second book will be the nonfiction "Cinema Speculation," which Harper is calling "a deep dive into the movies of the 1970's" that draws in part on the director's admiration for the late New Yorker critic Pauline Kael. A release date

has not been determined.

"The book will be a rich mix of essays, reviews, personal writing, and tantalizing 'what if's,' from one of cinema's most celebrated filmmakers, and its most devoted fan," according to Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Several directors have written fiction in recent years, including Brian De Palma, David Cronenberg and Guillermo del Toro, and Michael Mann has been working on a prequel to his crime classic "Heat." Tarantino, 57, may well have more time in the future for books.

Couple gets prison time for paying bribes in college scam

BOSTON (AP)—A California couple got prison time Tuesday for paying \$250,000 to get their daughter into the University of Southern California as a volleyball recruit—the latest sentencing in the college admissions bribery scheme that's roiled the worlds of higher education, sports and entertainment.

Diane Blake was sentenced to six weeks behind bars while Todd Blake was sentenced to four months, under plea deals made with prosecutors.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Leslie Wright described Todd Blake as the more active participant in the scam but said his wife was "fully complicit."

Diane Blake told a Boston federal court judge in a hearing held via videoconference because of the coronavirus pandemic that she is "truly sorry" for her actions. Her husband said he is "ready to accept the consequences."

The Blakes, of Ross, California, are among more than 50 people charged in the scheme

led by college admissions consultant Rick Singer, who has pleaded guilty and is cooperating with prosecutors.

The Blakes worked with Singer to get their daughter into USC as a volleyball recruit in 2018, authorities said. Todd Blake sent a \$50,000 check for USC women's athletics to then-senior associate athletic director Donna Heinel and wired \$200,000 to Singer's fake charity, authorities said. Their daughter was formally admitted a month later.

CNN's Amanpour regrets equating Trump with Nazi assault

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN's Christiane Amanpour says she regrets equating President Donald Trump's tenure to Kristallnacht, an attack on Jews in Nazi Germany seen historically as the Holocaust's launch.

A prominent Jewish organization criticized Amanpour for her remarks, made last Thursday on her nightly interview program that airs on CNN International and PBS.

Amanpour had noted the

82nd anniversary of Kristallnacht, an attack on Jews, their businesses and synagogues that happened Nov. 9-10, 1938. She said it was an assault on "fact, knowledge, history and truth," and that the Trump administration represented a modern-day attack on the same values.

The American Jewish Com-



Amanpour

mittee's CEO, David Harris, said it was odd that Amanpour didn't mention that the Nazi's targets that night were Jews. While she's entitled to her opinion about Trump, bringing up Kristallnacht represented a

"misuse of history," he said.

Amanpour, on her show Monday, said she regretted any pain that her remarks caused.

Family ties break down after mom moves away

DEAR ABBY: Since I moved eight years ago, my son, "Jim," has visited me only once, and that's because I gave his son my car. I rarely hear from him, and when I have visited, we barely talk. We have totally different ideas on life, and it has caused a rift in our relationship.

When I have visited Jim and his wife, they just sit, watch movies and eat takeout food unless I take them out and pay for the meal. Over the years, I have given my son money and housed him when he went through a terrible divorce. His children are grown now, and I don't hear from them either.

He remarried a woman he met on the internet who has different ideas on things than my family and the way I was brought up. It hurts me very much. What's your opinion on what to do about this situation? I'm at a loss.

LET DOWN IN IDAHO

DEAR LET DOWN: It's sad, but the breakdown in your relationship with Jim started a long time ago. It should have been addressed then.

It's not uncommon for adults to have ideas that differ from their parents', but it shouldn't cause a rift. If your son and his wife are hiding behind their television set rather than conversing, the situation may be as uncomfortable for them as it is for you.

If the dynamics in your relationship are going to improve, you will have to convince them to discuss where

things went off track, agree to disagree on certain topics and talk about other things when you see them. From what you have written, it appears you are doing all the work in the relationship, and that isn't fair to you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay male who has fallen in love with my best friend, who is straight. After months of feeling dishonest in our friendship, I told him how I felt. At first he seemed OK with it. He told me he couldn't reciprocate those feelings, but he still loved me as his friend and asked me not to make it "weird."

A month later, he said if I can't find a way to fall out of love with him, we could no longer be friends. I didn't change anything about my relationship with him. I maintained the status quo, and he seemed good with it. I don't know what to do.

I am extremely sad because I don't want to lose my best friend. We had a great relationship, which is why I thought he would appreciate my honesty and we could work through the issue. What's your advice?

TURNED DOWN IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TURNED DOWN: This person may be wonderful, but he could not handle the responsibility of a close personal relationship with someone who was in love with him if it wasn't reciprocal. My advice is to accept it and move on. You really have no alternative because the decision has already been made for you. You have my sympa-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



thy, but you WILL heal from this. I promise.

DEAR ABBY: All my boyfriend wants to do is clean the house and make love to me. He also cooks for me, massages me, worships my body, insists that I take naps and makes me laugh nonstop. What's wrong with him?

PONDERING IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

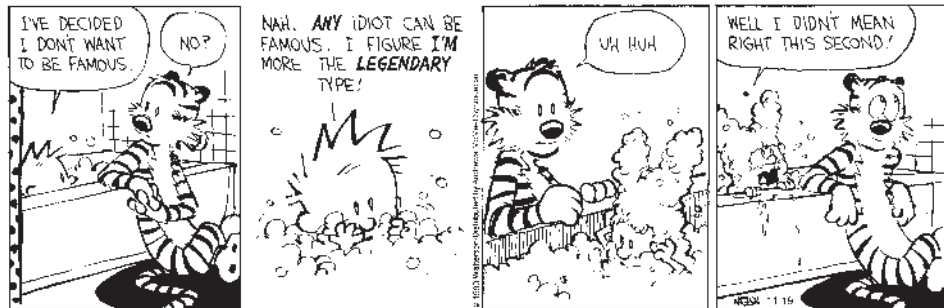
DEAR PONDERING: What's wrong with YOU? This must be a new relationship. Give it time, and I am sure you will uncover something.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Spanish greeting
5 Skillet
8 IRS employees
12 Tarzan's clique
13 Fish story
14 Has a bug
15 Golf props
16 Curator's focus
17 Inert gas
18 Eccentric
20 Sun-glasses
22 Roulette bet
23 Commotion
24 Retained
27 Ovation
32 Calendar abbr.
33 Afternoon get-together
34 Solidify
35 1991 De Niro thriller
38 Bangkok language
39 Conceit

DOWN

40 Capote nickname
42 Police identifiers
45 Meddlers
49 "The Time Machine" people
50 Moreover
52 "— arigato"
53 Prom dress
54 Marseilles monarch
55 Tears
56 Crooned
57 Little rascal
58 To boot

2 Oil cartel
3 Ogler's look
4 Declare
5 Tot's
6 Melody
7 Trawler gear
8 Manitoba's land
9 It's rolled out by a pastry chef
10 Lotion additive
11 Taxpayer IDs
19 You and I
21 Actor Linden
24 Col. Sanders' chain
25 Mound stat
26 "Hush!"
28 Royal insomnia cause
29 Bowlful served with chips
30 Vast expanse
31 Quarter-back
36 Urging (on)
37 Nemesis
38 Arctic plain
41 Concerning
42 Pleads
43 Slugger
44 Rani's wrap
46 Work hard
47 Band boosters
48 Mediocre
51 — de plume

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	R	O		R	A	M		A	T	T	A
A	L	E	C		U	N	I		L	O	U
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S	I	T	A	R		H	I	A	T	U	S
				V	O	I	D		S	H	O
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B	R	O	N	C	O		E	B	E	R	T
M	C	A	I		U	A	I	O	U	A	Y
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C	J	R	L		S	A	Y		S	T	Y

Yesterday's answer 11-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jodie Foster, 58; Meg Ryan, 59; Allison Janney, 61; Ann Curry, 64.

Happy Birthday: Share your knowledge, and be resourceful when you have doubts. Ask, and you shall receive what you need to reach your goals. Embrace change, but don't take risks that can lead to injury or illness. Abide by the rules, and take care of unfinished business. The best way to make progress is to approach life with an open mind and a positive attitude. Your numbers are 5, 18, 21, 24, 32, 36, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Go about your business. Don't make promises or let someone rope you into something you don't want to do. Pace yourself, take care of your responsibilities and plan to spend time with someone you love. A diversion will ease stress. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you don't like something, make a change. Take control instead of being controlled. An adjustment you initiate will give you the freedom to do something that brings you joy. Make balance and quality of life your priorities. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Consider what is possible and set goals. Don't let someone lead you astray with a ludicrous plan that is emotionally, financially or physically risky. Stick to what you know and do best. Romance and personal growth are favored. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change someone makes will end up benefiting you. Look over contracts or documents that are about to expire. A unique idea that some-

one presents will lead to a monetary gain. Avoid indulgent behavior and emotional setbacks. ***
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An adventure will entice you. Be careful not to overstep your limits or put yourself in harm's way. Planning and preparation will be vital if you want to avoid a mishap. Use less aggressive and more affectionate means to get your way. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll get the right-of-way if you follow your heart and do your own thing. Your enthusiasm and desire to learn as you go will encourage others to join in and support your efforts. A last-minute change will benefit you. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Mull over the past, and come to terms with anything that is holding you back. Lift the burdens, and you will feel better about the future. Personal growth, physical improvements and lifestyle change are favored. Don't give in to demanding people. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Live and learn. Experiences you share with someone seeking similar information will change how you think and do things as you move forward. Sometimes a little force is necessary to get what you want. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Someone from your past will disrupt your life if you are too revealing. Pay more attention to home and family, and nurture a meaningful relationship. Handle secrets, passwords and possessions with discretion. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep up the momentum. Positive change is heading your way. Don't let personal uncertainty stand in your way; focus on what's doable, who is reliable and the result. A unique lifestyle change is within reach. Personal growth is encouraged. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't rely on others to do things for you. Stick to the rules, and follow through with your plans. If you hang around waiting for someone else to start, you'll miss out on a chance to show how efficient you can be. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be effective. How you go about helping others will be a door opener that will change the way you work and how much you earn. More significant resources will give you the freedom to expand your interests, skills and ability to grow personally. ***

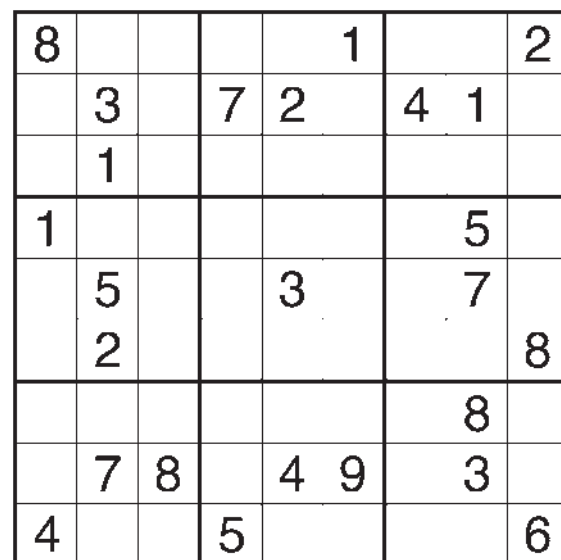
Birthday Baby: You are proactive, resourceful and thoughtful. You are steadfast and adventure-some.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

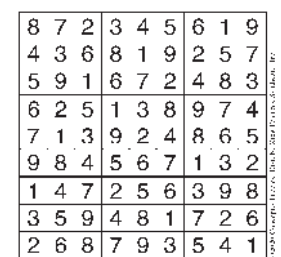
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

11/19

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SUMNER REDSTONE (1923-2020)

Solution: 13 letters

G T E B P M U G T S E R R O F
U N N B R A V E H E A R T B P
N U I A E C U U L A W Y E R H
S O E K B L M L L S Y D N E Y
M M T S S O L I A I P A N N L
O A S E H I S E C S S S O T L
K R H V A V T T T H S E E Y S
E A T N R V I N R A A I D A S
O P O O I T E A E O I E O R H
F F R O K M P B C T V D L R O
F I L M E H E N T O N S E U W
I A O S A S E I V O M O K M T
R R U E T S L E N N A H C Y I
E M L L W I N X A M A R I M M
A Y M E R G E R O S E A N N E

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11/19

Amusements, Army, Belle, Best, BET, Braveheart, Brent, CBS, Channels, Content Is King, Desilu, Film, Fire, Forrest Gump, Gunsmoke, Korff, Lawyer, Les Moonves, Media, Merger, Michael, Miramax, Movies, MTV, Murray, Nickelodeon, Ostrovsky, Paramount, Paula, Phyllis, Raphael, Roseanne, Rothstein, Shari, Showtime, Sydney, Viacom

Yesterday's Answer: Lifestyle

Treasures 13 through 18 and 20 through 38 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Westbrook, Wall swap on the table



TEXAS — The drama in Houston changes by the hour.

The latest report from The Athletic's Shams Charania has the Rockets and Washington Wizards discussing a deal to swap All-Star guards Russell Westbrook and John Wall. Westbrook and James Harden reportedly both want out of Houston.

But for now, the talks sound very preliminary with the Rockets seeking more than the Wizards are offering. Wall, 30, is one of the NBA's best guards when healthy. But he has been plagued by serious injuries in recent seasons including an Achilles tear and carries significant risk.

A Wall for Westbrook trade could completely flip the direction of two NBA franchises on their head a day before the NBA Draft. The Wizards go away from their franchise star after being the face of the team for a decade. The Rockets would basically be committing to a rebuild after having title hopes just last season.

Whether or not the trade gets executed before or in the immediate aftermath of the 2020 NBA Draft, this likely won't change the Wizards' plans.

Wall and Westbrook would fit into a similar role with the Wizards. Given recent comments by general manager Tommy Sheppard, the focus going forward will be around Bradley Beal. It doesn't appear Westbrook would come in and take over. Positionally speaking, the Wizards would be in basically the exact same spot from a roster construction standpoint.

Issues that need to be immediately addressed this offseason (in no particular order) are rim-protection, post-presence, a wing 3-point shooter, a viable backup point guard and their defensive efforts.

The only areas that Westbrook would contribute to those needs are defense—if he returns to his Oklahoma City days of guarding the top opponents—and rebounding from the guard position.

Whichever plans Sheppard had with the Wizards' ninth overall pick will likely remain. Momentum is behind the team drafting USC big-man Onyeka Okongwu to fill several of the voids listed above if available. If not available, Memphis' Precious Achiuwa is next in line for the position. There are also options to draft a project point guard or a three-and-D wing around that pick selection.

If anything, the trade will encourage Washington to go



The Washington Wizards and Houston Rockets are discussing a possible trade involving John Wall, left, and Russell Westbrook.



AP

younger for a backup point guard—if that was considered. In a mock draft, the Wizards take a PG in the second round as insurance for Wall if he got injured. Now, a project is more likely to be in play with the second-round pick, like a Yam Madar, over an experienced four-year college player.

Keeping Giannis

Jon Horst, the 37-year-old general manager of the Milwaukee Bucks, pushed his chips all in on building a roster that will convince two-time reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo to sign his super-max extension.

The Bucks traded all they could to acquire Jrue Holiday and Bogdan Bogdanovic, a pair of not-quite-stars who are supreme basketball fits around

Antetokounmpo and All-Star teammate Khris Middleton. It cost them Eric Bledsoe, George Hill, Ersan Ilyasova, Donte Divincenzo, D.J. Wilson, three first-round picks and two first-round pick swaps.

So, it better work. It has to work, because losing Antetokounmpo would be crippling to the franchise.

Bogdanovic will join the Bucks in a sign-and-trade deal that hard caps them at \$139 million and is expected to pay him a starting salary close to \$18 million. Milwaukee would be committing roughly \$118 million this season to a starting lineup of Holiday, Bogdanovic, Middleton, Antetokounmpo and Brook Lopez. Only two other players will be under contract, leaving Horst to fill out the roster with bar-

gain ring-chasing veterans.

So, this is their championship pitch to Antetokounmpo, for better or worse, and on paper it looks better.

Hawks pursuing Hayward

The Atlanta Hawks are in play in an attempt to acquire Boston Celtics forward Gordon Hayward, league sources tell Yahoo Sports.

A sign-and-trade deal is a possible route, but Atlanta is equipped with the most cap space in the league at around \$44 million and can simply sign Hayward to a hefty multi-year deal if he decided to decline his option.

Atlanta is seeking an alternative playmaker to incorporate alongside young star Trae Young. The Hawks will also be

in contention for veteran point guard Rajon Rondo, who is declining his \$2.7 million player option with the Los Angeles Lakers to become an unrestricted free agent, sources said.

Hayward, 30, has plenty of interest, sources said.

The 6-foot-7 small forward has a player option for the 2020-21 season worth \$34.2 million.

He had a deadline of Nov. 17 to decide his course, but both sides have agreed to push the deadline back to Nov. 19.

Delayed draft finally comes

There was no dancing on the court after a March Madness victory. No bounding onto the stage in a spiffy suit to meet the commissioner in June.

The coronavirus pandemic

wiped out the traditional end of a college career and the usual start of a pro one. Players such as Anthony Edwards, LaMelo Ball and James Wiseman should be about a month into their rookie seasons by now, but their plans were put on hold.

After multiple delays, the NBA draft finally arrives Wednesday. Like everyone else in 2020, this year's class of players has tried to make the best of their difficult circumstances.

"I feel like it was better for me," Edwards said. "I haven't complained, I haven't tripped about it at all. I just felt like it was better for me because more time for me to get better and get ready for the NBA."

The freshman guard from Georgia is one of the leading candidates to be picked first by the Minnesota Timberwolves. Ball, a guard who skipped college to play professionally overseas, and 7-foot-1 Memphis freshman center Wiseman are the other headliners in the class.

The draft is usually held in June in New York, where Adam Silver announces the first-round picks. The top players sit at tables in the front of the arena and when their names are called, put on a hat with the logo of the team that picked them and walk onto the stage for a handshake and a photo with the commissioner.

This time, Silver will be announcing the picks from the ESPN campus in Bristol, Connecticut. Players have been shipped boxes of hats for wherever they will be watching to choose the one they need when their name is called. (AP/NBC)

Play-in tourney on, Olympics likely out for NBA

NEW YORK (AP)—The 2020-21 NBA schedule will feature a play-in tournament and an NBA Finals that could run all the way until July 22—keeping some players from competing in the Olympics.

The league's 75th season, delayed and shortened because of the coronavirus pandemic, will begin Dec. 22 and look like none other. The NBA announced Tuesday how it will make up the 72-game schedule, which won't be entirely known until well after it's started.

Teams will play 42 intra-conference games, with each club facing the others within its conference three times apiece. Teams will play the remaining 30 games against

the opposite conference—one at home and one on the road in a return to cross-country travel and playing in arenas after completing last season in a "bubble" environment.

When that's finished, the play-in tournament, approved Tuesday by the board of governors on a one-year basis, follows involving the teams with the seventh through 10th-best records in each conference. They will play for the final two playoff spots in the East and the West.

The league debuted the play-in tournament this year at Walt Disney World, though it only featured the Nos. 8-9 teams in the Western Conference. Portland knocked out Memphis to earn the final

seed in the playoffs.

This time, the team with the seventh-best record in each conference will host No. 8 in one game. The winner secures the No. 7 seed, while the loser hosts the winner of a game between No. 9 and No. 10. The winner of that game gets the final playoff spot.

The league plans to announce the first half of the schedule around the start of training camp in early December. The second half will be unveiled during the latter part of the first half, featuring the remaining games along with any that needed to be postponed because of the virus.

If all goes according to plan, preseason games will be held Dec. 11-19. The first

half of the season then runs Dec. 22 through March 4, followed by an All-Star break March 5-10 — though the All-Star Game in Indianapolis was scrapped.

The second half is March 11 to May 16, with the play-in tournament May 18-21. The postseason could then last for two months from May 22 to July 22.

That almost certainly eliminates a number of players from considering going to Tokyo for the postponed 2020 Olympics. The Summer Games are set to begin July 23, with the qualifying tournaments for the remaining four spots in the men's field scheduled to run from June 29 to July 4.

IOC issues plea for Olympians to get vaccinated

TOKYO (AP)—As he toured the Athletes Village on Tuesday, IOC President Thomas Bach issued a gentle plea to all competitors to get vaccinated before the Tokyo Olympics—if a vaccine is available.

Bach, who is visiting Tokyo this week for the first time since the Olympics were postponed, again said the vaccine would not be a requirement, but he urged athletes and fans to help protect themselves and others.

“The IOC will appeal to the athletes and other participants—in particular all those who are living here in the village—to have a vaccination,” Bach said, wearing a white mask with the Olympic rings on the right side. “But it will be their free decision.”

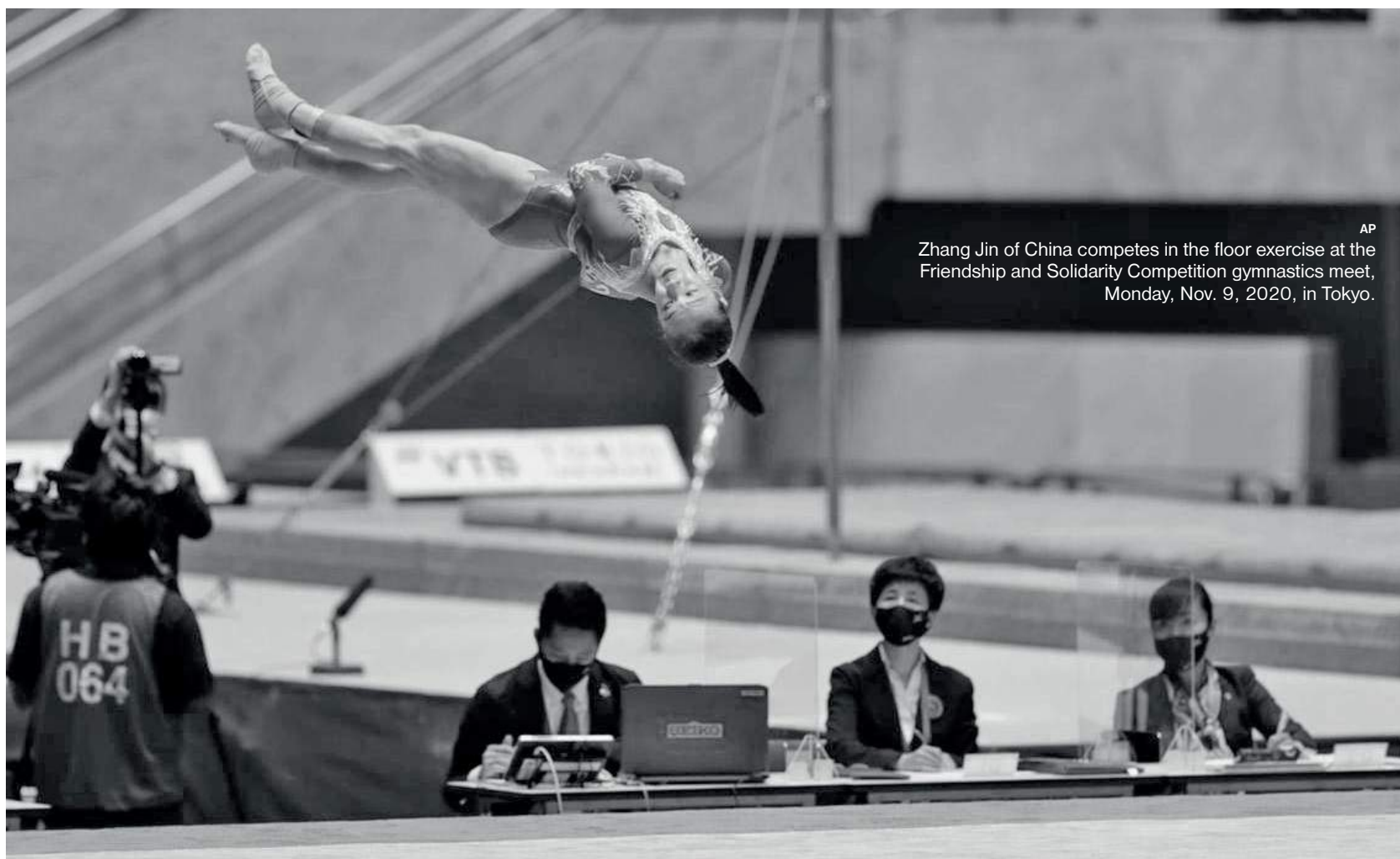
“I’m sure many, many of the athletes and the participants will follow this advice, or maybe don’t even need it and will do it on their own.”

Bach also said a “reasonable number” of fans should be able to attend the Tokyo Olympics with or without a vaccine. And, before heading to the new \$1.4 billion National Stadium in central Tokyo, he said confidently that the postponed games will open on July 23.

Bach was greeted by a few protesters outside the stadium chanting: “Get out IOC. Get out Olympics.”

Japan has controlled the virus comparatively well, with about 1,900 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in a country of about 125 million. However, cases have been rising lately, particularly in Tokyo and the northern island of Hokkaido.

In a more private setting, Bach has spoken directly about Olympic athletes’ re-



AP
Zhang Jin of China competes in the floor exercise at the Friendship and Solidarity Competition gymnastics meet, Monday, Nov. 9, 2020, in Tokyo.

sponsibility to consider the vaccine.

In an on-line session last month with the IOC’s Athletes’ Commission, Bach was asked—among other things—if athletes would be “forced” to be vaccinated. The Associated Press obtained a 90-minute recording of the session, which included more than 100 athletes or their representatives. It was monitored by Kirsty Coventry, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and chairperson of the Athletes’ Commission.

In that session, Bach said

“we are not there yet” in terms of requiring a vaccine, but he made his feelings clear that athletes owe it to each other—and themselves—when thinking about a vaccination.

“Every athlete should look at his fellow athletes and take this into consideration,” Bach said to the commission. “Because the vaccination is not just about the individual. It’s a protection for the entire community.”

“And there I think each and everyone of us has a responsibility in this crisis,

a responsibility not just for us individually but for all of the people who surround us and who are our fellow team members, who are fellow Olympians.”

Two vaccine makers have said preliminary results from their late-stage studies suggest their experimental vaccines are strongly protective. Early results provide strong signals that the vaccine could prevent a majority of disease when large groups of people are vaccinated.

Not all athletes are likely to

want to take the vaccine. For some it will be a question of individual liberty. Others will fear vaccines against COVID-19 are being rushed, and possibly unsafe. Some could fear falling ill after taking the vaccine, jeopardizing their Olympic chances.

“We can solve this crisis like other challenges only if we are in solidarity, and if we all take responsibility,” Bach said in the online conference with athletes in early October, acknowledging some athletes would see taking the vaccine as a “sacrifice.”

In Tokyo, Bach said that nurses, doctors and health care workers should be first in line for a vaccine, ahead of healthy, young athletes.

As well as the 11,000 Olympic athletes, there could be tens of thousands of officials, judges, VIPs, and media and broadcasters traveling to Japan for the games.

Tokyo Olympic officials and the International Olympic Committee have said that athletes testing positive at the games could be barred from competing, similar to the way a doping suspect is removed.



CHICAGO

(AP)—Listening in on fans’ conversations during his walks home from Wrigley Field, Theo Epstein could sense their excitement as the Chicago Cubs set themselves up to capture that long-awaited World Series championship.

It was as if they were all in it together.

“It felt like the lines between fans and front office members and players were blurred because we were all part of this club that was in on a secret,” he said. “We all kind of knew what was about to happen, maybe before the rest of the baseball world did.”

Epstein, who transformed the long-suffering Cubs and helped bring home a drought-busting championship in 2016, is stepping down after nine seasons as the club’s president of baseball operations, the team announced Tuesday. General manager Jed Hoyer is being promoted to take Ep-

Epstein steps down as Cubs president

stein’s place.

Epstein said after the season he anticipated remaining on the job for at least one more year, with his contract set to expire in 2021. But he said Tuesday it became apparent this past summer “for a number of reasons” it was time to move on.

“It became really clear that we’d be facing some significant long-term decisions this winter, decisions with long-term impacts,” Epstein said. “Those types of decisions are really best made by somebody who’s going to be here for a long time, not just for one more year. ... Jed clearly is that person.”

Chairman Tom Ricketts said it was a “sad day for me personally” and called Epstein a “great partner and truly a great friend.”

“Really, I think the legacy that Theo leaves behind is an organization that expects to win, not an organization that is surprised to win,” Ricketts added.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked financial havoc on baseball, Ricketts said money “had nothing to do” with Epstein’s decision. Epstein, who won’t be paid for 2021 by the Cubs, said Ricketts did not bring up his salary when they discussed his future. He also said he was not asked to resign.

The 46-year-old Epstein, who grew up near Boston and helped the Red Sox break an 86-year drought with World Series championships in 2004 and 2007, is one of five executives to win titles with multiple organizations. He, Pat Gillick, John Schuerholz and Dave Dombrowski are the only ones to do so with teams in each league.

Epstein hopes to stay involved with baseball while he plots his next move. He plans to run a team again, though probably not next season. He would like to be part of an

ownership group at some point.

“Baseball team owners can be transformed into forces for civic good and help a lot of people and be involved in a lot of the important conversations in the city and be a solution for a lot of issues in cities,” Epstein said. “So that does appeal to me. A lot of things would have to go right for that to happen. Usually, for that type of thing to happen you need access to a lot of capital. ... Who knows? Maybe I have plans for some of those things down the line, but a lot would have to go right for that to happen.”

For now, Epstein will remain in Chicago with his wife and two sons. He said he would likely become a season-ticket holder, maybe even a bleacher bum. And he vowed to buy beers for any Cubs fan he sees in a bar following the coronavirus pandemic, until the team wins a World Series under Hoyer.

Epstein oversaw a massive

rebuild when he came to Chicago following the 2011 season. He overhauled the farm system as well as the scouting and analytics operations, helping to produce one of the most successful stretches in the franchise’s history with a big assist from Hoyer.

With homegrown stars Kris Bryant and Javier Báez, shrewd trades for players such as Anthony Rizzo and Jake Arrieta, the signing of Jon Lester and the hiring of former manager Joe Maddon, the Cubs transformed into perennial contenders. They reached the NL championship series three times in Epstein’s nine seasons.

In 2016, they won 103 games to run away with the NL Central and took out the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NLCS for their first pennant since 1945. The Cubs fell behind 3-1 to the Indians in the World Series before beating

them in seven games, ending a title drought dating to 1908.

The Cubs’ 505 regular-season victories since 2015 trail only Los Angeles (528) and the Houston Astros (510). Chicago, the Dodgers, New York Yankees and Astros are the only clubs with at least five playoff appearances in the past six seasons. But the Cubs have not advanced in the playoffs since the 2017 team lost to Los Angeles in the NLCS.

Phillies will check in

The Philadelphia Phillies, according to an industry source, will check in with Epstein to gauge his interest in jumping right back into the captain’s chair and leading the team’s baseball operations after stepping down as president of the Chicago Cubs.

But there’s no guarantee that Epstein will want to speak with the Phillies about potential employment, or, for that matter, the New York Mets, who are also looking for a leader of baseball operations.

Spain hands Germany worst defeat

SEVILLE, Spain (AP)—Spain handed Germany its worst defeat in a competitive match on Wednesday, winning 6-0 to advance to the Final Four of UEFA's Nations League.

Ferran Torres scored a hat trick to lead Spain to the historic victory in the decisive match in Group 4.

Germany's only five-goal loss in a competitive game had been West Germany's 8-3 defeat to Hungary at the 1954 World Cup group stage. West Germany went on to beat Hungary in the final. In non-competitive matches, Germany had also lost 6-0 to Austria in a friendly in 1931.

The victory ended a three-match winless streak for Spain, which hasn't gone four games without a win since the late 1980s.

"It's important to get back to winning with a great performance like this," Spain coach Luis Enrique said. "We have to enjoy this great result."

Last year, Spain failed to advance to the Final Four after conceding late in a match against Croatia.

The Germans would have advanced with a draw, but Spain dominated early and took control with three goals in each half. The visitors had only two total attempts, none on target.

"This is definitely one of the worst defeats of my career," Germany and Real Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos said. "It hurts."

Spain got the convincing win despite playing most of the match without captain Sergio Ramos, who missed two penalty kicks in the 1-1 draw



Spain's Ferran Torres, left, shoots to score during their UEFA Nations League soccer match against Germany in Seville, Spain, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020.

no way of dressing this up."

Ronaldo scoreless

Croatia avoided relegation in Group 3 of UEFA's Nations League despite a 3-2 loss to defending champion Portugal on Tuesday.

Croatia needed to better the result of Sweden, which lost 4-2 to group-winner France in the other match. Portugal was already eliminated and had secured second place.

Croatia played with 10 men from early in the second half after one of its midfielders was sent off.

Cristiano Ronaldo was held scoreless for the second consecutive match to stay seven goals shy of the 109 scored by former Iran striker Ali Daei, the only other male soccer player to surpass the 100-goal milestone for a national team.

One of Ronaldo's best chances to move closer to the all-time international record was a first-time header that missed wide.

at Switzerland. Ramos had to be replaced by Éric García just before the break with an apparent muscle injury in his right leg.

"Historic night that will help us grow as a team," Ramos said on Twitter after the match.

Spain constantly threatened up front, forcing Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer to make a few good saves to keep the visitors from going into a bigger hole. Spain squandered several counterattack chances throughout the match in an empty La Cartuja Stadium in Seville.

"To put this type of pressure on a team like Germany, you need great collective work by everyone, in attack and defense," Luis Enrique said. "We made them suffer and kept them from threatening."

Álvaro Morata opened the scoring in the 17th minute

with a header into the top of the net off a corner kick taken by Fabián Ruiz, who came off the bench after an early injury to Sergio Canales.

Torres added to the lead in the 33rd with a shot from close range after Dani Olmo's header ricocheted off the crossbar, and five minutes later it was Rodri's header off a corner that gave the hosts a 3-0 halftime lead.

Torres added to the rout in the 55th and 71st minutes after other fast counterattacks by the hosts, and Mikel Oyarzabal closed the scoring in the 89th.

Morata had a goal disallowed for offside in the 23rd.

"We saw a great version of Spain," said Rodri, who scored his first goal with the national team. "We could have scored even more. It was 6-0 but it could have been more."

Wed, November 18, 2020,

8:57 AM GMT+10

Joachim Loew admitted it was a "black day" for Germany after their drubbing and it piled pressure on the team's coach.

"This has been a black day for us," admitted Loew. "We completely lost track of our plan after we went 1-0 down, which was deadly and the Spanish took their chances. Nothing worked, neither in defense nor attack. We left

huge spaces, there was a lack of communication between the players."

The 60-year-old, who led Germany to the 2014 World Cup title, insists he can still turn things around with seven months to go before the European Championships kick off in June.

"It's our duty to look at this and ask what we can do better. We were second best in every department, it was a black day, there is

ARCHERY

From Page 20

training at the PIC Saipan's archery range to comply with the government and the hotel's safety measures against the COVID-19 pandemic. Team 1 meets and practices every Friday from 3:30pm to 5pm, while Team 2 hold its session every Thursday from 3pm to 4:30pm.

"We usually have our individual archery range to practice shooting arrows and we are working on recording our points to see if we are making any progress or not. We also have a walk-in archery practice session during the week-

ends, anytime between 2pm and 6pm," the Saipan International School 12th grader said.

The archery club's members are mostly students. The group has been receiving membership inquiries from college, middle school, and high school students, but also welcomes adults interested in trying out the sport and joining the fledgling club. Once membership grows, Make Your Mark plans to hold competitions.

"We have two teams and more students from middle school and high school are willing to join so we are looking at holding a competition in the future. It may not be an

official competition (maybe a small competition amongst ourselves) or if we happen to improve a lot, we may hold an official competition with a set time and date for our community to also join/watch us," No said.

No added that PIC staff members are assisting them in their training sessions and the hotel is also providing equipment for practices to new members for a measly fee of \$5.

For individuals interested in joining Make Your Mark Archery Club, they may reach out to the group through https://www.instagram.com/make_your_mark_archery_club.

RACEWAY

From Page 20

said everyone has stepped up and are putting in the time and effort to start the course rebuilding process, as they look forward to returning to their

"home" soon.

While waiting for the construction of its permanent racetrack, MRA will continue to hold weekly events at the Kan Pacific grounds. Races take place in the afternoon and feature not only MX and

dirt bikes, but also ATVs (all-terrain vehicle). There is also a separate course for kids/young riders with MRA season bikers available to teach newcomers about the basic of the sport and safety rules on the track.



JOSEPH CHIN

Riders will continue to race at the Kan Pacific grounds as Marianas Racing Association is still working on securing permits for building the Marianas Motocross Park in CowTown.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Make Your Mark Archery Club member loads arrow to the bow during a practice session at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's archery range early this month.



Westbrook,
Wall swap on
the table

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

IOC issues
plea for
Olympians to
get vaccinated

PAGE 18



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Raceway clearing underway



JOSEPH CHIN

Young riders wait for the start of the race at the Kan Pacific grounds, which will continue to host Marianas Racing Association events until the Marianas Motocross Park is built in CowTown.

ELEANOR CEPEDA

A tractor land clearing equipment works on the field of the former CowTown Raceway.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Marianas Racing Association is moving forward with its project to build the Marianas Motocross Park at its former home in CowTown, Marpi.

MRA president Steve Sablan said the group's members and their parents went to the former CowTown Raceway Park last Saturday and started clearing the area of grass and debris. He added that they also began the process of securing permits with the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality last week through the leadership of veteran rider Henry Camacho.

Archery group open for membership

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



There's a new sports group on island and keeps its doors open for new members.

The Make Your Mark Archery Club was established mid this year and the group so far has 20 members who are practicing regularly at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Eileen No, the club co-president (Oliver Lee is the other head), said their current members are divided into two teams and each group has their own schedule of

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Make Your Mark Archery Club member eyes her target during a practice session at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's archery range early this month.

"MRA board member Henry Camacho has been working with many agencies to get the applications and signatures needed to get the authorization to proceed with the minor clearing of low-lying vegetation at the former track," the MRA president said.

The MRA is taking the necessary steps to build a permanent raceway after the CNMI government, through the Department of Public Lands and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, signed over the Marpi property to the revived motocross group early this month.

More clearing work will be done in the coming months to have the facility ready, as MRA waits for the issuance of the permits to start the rebuilding of the course.

"We will continue to clean the course and other facilities

and assess what other work needs to be done. We will also continue to coordinate with the many private and public entities that have contacted us and pledged to assist us in any way possible," Sablan said.

MRA is working with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety, and DCCA to build the Marianas Motocross Park.

"We've been receiving outstanding and heartfelt assistance from volunteers, our members, and the private and public sectors," Sablan said.

MRA board member Eleanor Cepeda and her family joined the group that performed clearing work at CowTown last weekend. She

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